

# THE TIMES

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## BEST FOR BOOKS

Roy Strong on  
Royal gardens  
**PLUS**  
Roy Jenkins and  
A.L. Kennedy  
PAGES 34, 35

## FOOTBALL

**£100,000  
OF PRIZES**  
Enter your  
fantasy team  
for the new season  
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## HELLO PAPA!

Children  
who come  
out of the  
woodwork  
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## TOMORROW

**THE TOP  
STATE  
SCHOOLS  
FOR GCSE**

**DEFINITIVE  
A LEVEL  
LEAGUE TABLE  
OF 750 SCHOOLS**

# Tory widow called in to comfort 'suicidal' Labour MP



Wareing: accusations  
drove him to despair

BY ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE widow of a Conservative MP who killed himself has come to the aid of a Labour MP who was so upset by his suspension from the party that he described himself as being suicidal.

Robert Wareing, the MP for Liverpool West Derby since 1963, was so distraught by the way he was treated that he sent a handwritten note to Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, seeking an urgent meeting the same day because he felt "suicidal".

Salt was rubbed into the wound when a junior whip told him he was suspended. The veteran Labour MP was driven to despair after the party leadership, when it disciplined him, accused him of having covert links with a front organisation for the Bosnian Serbs.

A Commons investigation later rejected the charge and the owner of the company at the centre of the investigation is taking legal action against Mr Brown.

Mr Brown, who investigated the suicide of the Paisley South MP Gordon McMaster, has not replied to Mr Wareing after two months. But Friends of Mr Wareing were so concerned by his mental state that they contacted Janet Heddle, widow

of the Mid-Shropshire Tory MP who killed himself in 1989. The following day, Mr Wareing had dinner with Mrs Heddle, whom he had never met, and a mutual friend at a west London restaurant. Mrs Heddle then arranged for Mr Wareing, 66, a widower, to spend a week at the country home of friends.

A friend of Mr Wareing's said last night: "They effectively arranged a safe house. It was the intervention of friends, who knew John Heddle's widow, which brought Bob to his senses. He felt shattered, but was able to talk it through with her."

Mr Wareing, who was advised on the day he was disciplined to leave

Westminster and to say nothing to the press, declined to comment to *The Times*. But he later issued a statement saying: "This is a personal matter but, yes, it is true that I sent the Government Chief Whip a note asking to see him. In that note I also said I felt suicidal following a range of scurrilous allegations which had been made."

"All of which, bar one, the failure to register a shareholding, were rejected as untrue by Sir Gordon Downey (the Parliamentary commissioner for standards)." Asked about Mrs Heddle, he said: "It is personal, but she was enormously kind and supportive."

John Rowland, a friend of Mr Wareing from his primary school days in Liverpool, said: "When I heard about Gordon McMaster's death I thought: that could have been Bob. He was suicidal. In a 60-year friendship I have never known him at such a low ebb. We were worried sick."

It has emerged that Zoran Tancic, the owner of Mena Trading, has sent a solicitor's letter to Mr Brown over the suggestion that the company could be a front organisation for the Bosnian Serb regime. A writ is expected. The committee's report said there was no evidence to support the theory.

The revelations about Mr Wareing come amid mounting concern among Labour MPs at the way the party handles disciplinary procedures.

Mr Wareing's suspension was enforced by the Labour Party after he admitted failing to disclose a £6,000 payment from Mena Trading. The Commons Standards and Privileges committee ruled that he should have registered it. He will be suspended from Parliament for one week when the Commons resumes in October. The Committee cleared Mr Wareing of the other allegations and said there was no attempt at tax avoidance.

# Officers face court martial over expenses

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

UP TO six RAF officers are facing courts martial following an investigation, by air force police into alleged expenses violations, by airman serving in Italy as part of the Bosnian peacekeeping operation.

The officers, mostly squadron leaders, the equivalent of major in the Army, will face charges next month when the six-month inquiry has been completed. A number of other officers are to be disciplined.

The courts martial of such senior men would be unprecedented in the RAF. If found guilty, their promotion prospects could be seriously damaged, or they could even be discharged from the service.

RAF police were called in following the discovery that air force personnel serving tours of duty in support of Operation Resolute — the codename for Britain's contribution to the air operation over Bosnia-Herzegovina — were staying in expensive hotels in Venice for long weekends and charging the bills to the Ministry of Defence.

There were also allegations that some of the RAF men may have hired cars for their trips. The total claims under investigation were reported to be £350,000 although this was not confirmed by the MoD.

The RAF men had all been summoned to attend intelligence briefings at Nato's Fifth

Tactical Air Force headquarters in Vicenza in northern Italy which generally lasted only half a day. However, instead of returning immediately to their operational base at Gioia del Colle in southern Italy, it was alleged, they stayed for a further two or three days in 60-a-night four-star hotels in Venice and Florence, and included the bills on their expenses.

The alleged fraudulent claims were made over a period of two years when the RAF was playing a crucial role in monitoring the no-fly zone over Bosnia and providing close air support to the peacekeeping troops. RAF Tornados and Jaguars were involved in the operation.

In 1994 when the alleged fraudulent claims were first made, the RAF combat aircraft and crews were operating in support of the then United Nations-led peacekeeping mission. Now, after an investigation which has involved the questioning of more than 50 officers, the RAF police are in a position to recommend formal charges against the senior officers who are understood to have held supervisory posts and were responsible for signing the expenses claims.

The officers who are now facing courts martial were also based at Gioia del Colle.

When the investigation was originally confirmed by the

MoD in March this year, there were allegations that senior RAF officers had been sanctioning the extra hotel nights for some time.

Detectives from the RAF's Provost and Security Services were called in by air force accountants who suspected that hundreds of personnel had wrongly claimed their expenses. Although RAF personnel are still serving in Italy as part of the now Nato-led Bosnian peacekeeping operation, the procedures for expenses reimbursement has taken fighting time because the RAF, a long time ago, had difficulty in determining whether the extra hotel nights were for hotel nights or the accepted rules of the RAF. Under the rules, servants were expected to pay for the time off.

None of the officers involved was accompanied by wives. Most of them were on four-month tour cycles.

They were expected to travel to Vicenza on a regular basis to be fully briefed by senior Nato intelligence officers and to meet their counterparts from America, Italy, France and The Netherlands. A spokesman for the MoD said investigations were expected to be completed next month.



Danny May is worrying players who fear the embarrassment of losing to a child

# Danny, 11, bowls over tradition

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

THE image of crown bowls as the preserve of our more senior sportsmen is about to be challenged by an 11-year-old boy who has become the scourge of England's greens.

Danny May from Carlisle has signed up with the Professional Bowls Association (PBA) and hopes to compete in one of the sport's most prestigious televised tournaments — the International Open at Preston in October. The sport's authorities cannot remember a younger competitor but opinion is divided about this intrusion of youth.

Fred Inch, deputy secretary

of the English Bowling Association, said: "There is no age limit... and the more youngsters we attract must be good for the future of the sport."

But another senior figure in the sport who will be competing in the tournament was not so charitable, saying: "Can you imagine the embarrassment of being beaten on television by a child. He will have to be stopped."

Danny says he does not intend to devote his life to bowls. His ambition is to become world champion by the time he is 22 — and so be the youngest ever — then retire

at 30 and apply his energies to the more lucrative golf circuit.

His father, David, who introduced him to the sport two years ago, insists that it is not a stunt. "Danny is a gifted athlete who is good at anything that involves a ball, and is deadly serious about his bowls. He has a natural delivery and an incredible understanding of tactics." He still, however, has time for the Spice Girls, designer clothes and fast food.

Danny won the Cumbria Under-18 singles title this month and reached the final of the Under-25 competition.

# British troops seize Bosnian police stations

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

HUNDREDS of British troops foiled a possible coup in Bosnia yesterday by taking control of all police stations in Banja Luka and seizing three lorries of weapons.

The unprecedented Nato action was sanctioned after emergency talks between Biljana Plavsic, the Republika Srpska president, and international negotiators who agreed that the security situation in the town had deteriorated to such an extent that foreign intervention was unavoidable.

Diplomatic sources said that the 2500 small arms discovered in the dawn raids could have been used in a coup attempt by Dragan Kijac, the Interior Minister loyal to Radovan Karadzic dismissed by Mrs Plavsic last month.

One of the diplomats watching the operation said of the arsenal: "It was staggering. There were piles waist high of rifles stretching the length of corridors, grenades, mines, booby traps, ball bearings, brand new rifles still in their packing cases."

In all, 350 Nato Stabilisation Force (Sfor) troops — mostly British with Czech support — were involved in the raids to

evict several hundred Bosnian Serb police from five stations. Tanks and armoured personnel carriers surrounded each station while Apache helicopters guarded approaches to the town.

By midday the scene at the central station — believed to be the nerve centre of Dr Karadzic's secret police — was chaotic as UN international police helped to install Mrs Plavsic's new commanders and Dr Karadzic's loyalists were led away.

Shortly afterwards Mrs Plavsic entered the building she had described the previous evening as "the centre of evil which we must destroy".

The operation encountered little resistance and Plavsic dismissed the weapons find as "a few hunting rifles". But the Karadzic cabinet described her as a quivering and issued a statement saying: "These events can be considered a state coup. It is obvious that what is at work is an attempt at foreign occupation with the help of domestic collaborators."

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, page 16

## GCSE results

A small increase in the GCSE pass rate meant another set of record results. But schools are still a long way from hitting government's target of getting more children to the old C-level standard. Page 6

TV & RADIO	42.43
WEATHER	22
CROSSWORDS	22.44
LETTERS	17
OBITUARIES	19
DANIEL JOHNSON	16
ARTS	34.33
CHESS & BRIDGE	41
COURT & SOCIAL	18
SPORT	38.42.44
BODY & MIND	14
TRAVEL	20.21

# Windfall winners go on a spending spree

BY GEORGE SIVELL

HIGH STREET sales rose by 6.5 per cent in the year to the end of July, the fastest rate since mid-1988.

The rise — fuelled by windfalls from building societies converting to banks — brought fears in the City of interest rate rises, in spite of the 7 per cent cap on base rates imposed by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee recently.

Both the Treasury and Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, sought to play down the spending boom.

saying that it would not fuel inflation. Mr Robinson said: "If there were to be a sustained boom over a long period of time — many, many months more than we were anticipating — then of course we would review the situation."

The Office for National Statistics estimates that if windfall spending from building society handouts were removed from the calculation, the quarterly rise would be a more normal 1.4 per cent.

Interest fears, page 23

# BAT races into £250m Formula One row

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

BRITAIN'S biggest cigarette maker, British American Tobacco, is planning to spend up to £250 million on buying a Formula One motor racing team. The idea is to get round the Government's proposed ban on tobacco sponsorship of sport by becoming the owner rather than sponsor.

The group, whose brands include Lucky Strike, said yesterday that it could either start up its own team from scratch or it could enter a joint venture with another team. It was not yet ready to announce details. A spokesman said: "We do not want to fuel speculation."

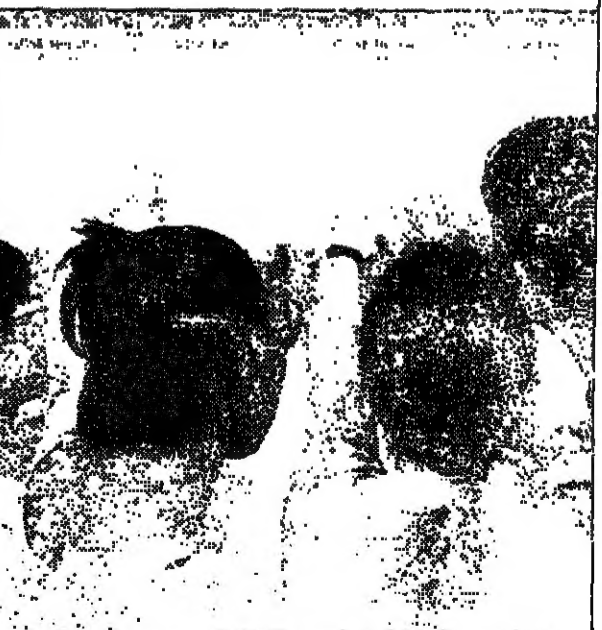
BAT is keen to promote Lucky Strike, one of the biggest selling brands in the Third World. A team carrying the Lucky Strike name could escape the sponsorship ban imposed in this country.

Three leading Formula One teams — Williams, McLaren and Jordan — receive more than £40 million a year from cigarette sponsorship. But because of restrictions on cigarette advertising, particularly in France, the cars do not carry the brand names when competing in many European grand prix. At Silverstone this year, for instance, the Williams car raced in the colours of Rothmans, its £15 million-a-year sponsor, with a large question mark on the side of the car.

BAT's foray into Formula One comes as Chris Smith, the Sport Secretary, begins to draw up plans to implement a ban on tobacco sponsorship and advertising. His department said that the Government did not intend to dilute its proposals: a draft Bill is expected before the end of the year. Mr Smith believes that Formula One and other sports that rely heavily on tobacco sponsorship could be attractive to other commercial sponsors.

BAT said of its plan for Formula One racing: "It is a matter of principle. We think that sports should be able to accept sponsorship from whoever they like. We do not think that tobacco sponsorship encourages smoking."

## GCSE Results



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# Labour pledges to banish sleaze

Independent panel to vet candidates for Scottish parliament in wake of Paisley inquiry, reports Shirley English

LABOUR launched its devolution campaign yesterday with a pledge to banish sleaze from a future Scottish parliament by establishing an independent panel to vet the quality of candidates.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, attempted to regain the confidence of the electorate in the wake of the suspension of the MP Tony Blair, with an assurance that only people of the highest quality and integrity would be acceptable to stand for Labour.

Answering the taunts of the "no" campaigners who have claimed that a parliament in Edinburgh dominated by Labour would be "Paisley writ

large," Mr Dewar expressed his personal determination that good would come out of the troubles of recent weeks.

Concern has been growing that Labour's problems with in-fighting and alleged corruption in Renfrewshire and Paisley have derailed the campaign for a double yes vote in next month's referendum and given the Tory-dominated "no" campaign a momentum it previously lacked.

But yesterday, with Mr Graham and four other Labour party figures suspended, and three constituency parties in Scotland under investigation, Mr Dewar said: "The bruising experience of the last

few days has strengthened my personal resolve to ensure there is no hiding place in our party for those who fail to meet the highest standards of integrity and conduct," he said.

The independent panel is expected to be made up of around 20 of Labour's elder statesmen and women, all individuals with no personal interest in becoming a member of the Scottish parliament. Possible recruits might include Baroness Smith, the wife of the late Labour leader John Smith, Baron Norman Hogg, former Labour MP and opposition Deputy Chief Whip, Baroness Ramsay, former foreign affairs advisor to

John Smith, and Sir Gavin Laird, a well known Scottish union leader.

The panel, which the Scottish National Executive Committee agreed to establish last month, will be responsible for vetting applications and interviewing people for the 129-seat parliament elected by proportional representation, of which 73 will be constituency MPs (one more than at present) and 56 additional members.

Those who pass the test will be included on a national list of approved candidates. The constituency parties will then be able to make a selection on a first come first served basis.

The prospective member will finally be chosen in a one member one vote local ballot.

Meanwhile it emerged yesterday that two letters which effectively killed off disciplinary action against Mr Graham two years ago are at the centre of the party's investigation into him. It is now thought that they may be forgeries.

They carried the signatures of Derek Foster, who was then the Chief Whip, and Don Dixon, his deputy. They both described Mr Graham, who has been accused of smearing the MP Gordon McMaster who committed suicide last month, as "conscientious and

hard working". The letters were passed to a small team from the Scottish Labour Party headquarters which was conducting an investigation into allegations Mr Graham had "packed" Paisley Labour Party with his supporters in 1995.

Labour is investigating reports that the letters from Mr Foster and Mr Dixon, now Lord Dixon, might be forgeries. They both carried the same wording and the same grammatical errors.

Both Mr Foster and Lord Dixon were on holiday and not available for comment. Lord Dixon was named in Mr McMaster's suicide note.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### No insurance cover for millennium 'bug'

Insurance companies have warned that they will not cover losses suffered from the "millennium timebomb" on the grounds that the problem does not qualify as an unforeseeable event. The Association of British Insurers said its members covered only "fortuitous events", leaving them free from liability arising from malfunctions in computers which fail to recognise dates in the new century. The association has drafted an exclusion statement for policies which has already been adopted by Cornhill and other insurers. The year 2000 problem will affect computerised machines which add and subtract dates by using only the last two digits of the year. This will predominantly affect large companies with huge databases, but there are still a large number of computer programs which will be thrown into confusion when told that the year '99 is succeeded by the year '00.

### BBC death 'unlawful'

An inquest jury in Bristol returned a verdict of unlawful killing yesterday on a BBC lighting technician who fell 140ft while filming *Casualty*. David Coles, 35, died when a hoist he was on fell from a crane on the roof of the BBC's £2,000 for failing to ensure his safety. Last night his family said they would be taking legal advice.

### Toddler died from drugs

Detectives are investigating the case of two-year-old Liam Darcy, from Solihull, who died of a methadone overdose. Detective Inspector John Jones, of West Midlands police, said: "A number of persons have been arrested in connection with drug-related offences and are currently on police bail." An inquest was opened and adjourned yesterday.

### Boy dies in hotel pool

A five-year-old boy has been found drowned in a hotel swimming pool in Newquay. After Joshua Curtis-Moore disappeared on Tuesday evening, the swimming pool area was checked, but he was not spotted, and it was locked. Two hours later, when a police sergeant and Joshua's father double-checked the pool, they found his body in the deep end. There were no suspicious circumstances.

### Lake body progress

Detectives investigating the discovery last week of a woman's body at the bottom of Conistow Water believe they are close to naming the woman. Forensic experts are convinced that they have matched dental records to a reconstruction of the dead woman's jaw. Police have drawn up a shortlist from a file of up to 50 missing persons. A DNA sample has been extracted from the body.

### Honeymooners robbed

A British honeymoon couple were held at gunpoint at a motel at Orlando, Florida, and robbed of their passports, cash and jewellery. Police said that three men and a woman had been arrested for the attack on Jon and Louise Wilson, of Morley, Leeds, last week and would face up to 12 charges of "tourist crime". Another Leeds family was robbed two hours later in a hotel near by.

### Killers on lesser charges

Three men accused of killing the British pastor Michael Pollard as he was travelling through Hungary on an aid mission are expected to escape murder charges. Hungarian police said that the men, who gave written confessions, were likely to face charges of fatal injury, aggravated assault or aggravated robbery. Mr Pollard's widow, Jo, was badly injured in the attack on August 5.

### Car thieves stab owner

A teenager was left with a knife buried up to the hilt in his neck for four hours after tackling two youths who tried to steal his car outside his home. Marc Silkstone, 18, of Halifax, Leeds, was stabbed in the stomach and back then slashed across the arms. The thieves ran off leaving the hunting knife embedded in his neck. Last night he was in a stable condition in Leeds General Infirmary.

### Nazi gold rush

Swiss banks have been overwhelmed by demand for details of Holocaust victims' accounts which have lain dormant since the Second World War. One month after the Swiss Bankers Association released the names of 1,572 account holders, it has received 23,587 inquiries from potential beneficiaries. More than 10,000 requests came from Western Europe — mainly France, Germany and Austria.

### Beetle's central heating

A powerful natural antifreeze has been isolated from a common beetle, which uses it to prevent its larvae freezing in cold weather. The antifreeze is 100 times more efficient than similar proteins used by fish, says Peter Davies, of Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. The beetle, *Tenebrio molitor*, is best known as the source of mealworms — larvae used as food for pet birds and fish.

## Hospitals given breather to avoid panic cash cuts

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEASURES to head off a crisis in the health service this winter by curbing lengthening waiting lists will be announced by ministers today. Health authorities will be given extra time to draw up detailed plans to spend the additional £1.2 billion earmarked for next year.

The Government believes that the longer preparation — about two months more than under the Tories — will ease pressure for panic hospital cuts and ward closures over the winter. Health chiefs will have the reassurance at an early stage of knowing how much extra cash is in the pipeline.

The decision will be announced today by Alan Milburn, the Minister for Health, as he announces figures showing that waiting lists have increased by 13 per

cent in the past year, one of the biggest rises since the creation of the National Health Service 50 years ago. They will also reveal an increase in patients waiting more than 18 months for an operation, in breach of the Patient's Charter. Their numbers are up to about 400 in the 12 months to June this year.

In an interview with *The Times* last night, Mr Milburn said that the decision to bring forward to late October the announcement of health authority allocations would bring much needed stability to the service and would reduce hospital waits.

"Health authorities will be in a position to plan local services over an 18-month period rather than over a 12-month period," he said. "One of the things that has bedevilled the NHS at local level has

been financial uncertainty and instability."

But the Health Minister was careful not to raise expectations too high, saying that he expected waiting lists to go on rising from today's record 1.18 million people for some time to come.

He claimed that the Tories' mismanagement was responsible for the increase of 136,000 patients over the previous year. "Precious NHS resources have been squandered on bureaucracy and running the internal market."

The Tories and the Liberal Democrats claimed that Labour had broken one of its main election promises. John Maples, Shadow Health Secretary, said the Government was making things worse by reducing NHS efficiency. The Liberal Democrats called for more money now.

## Hospital fined for poor safety

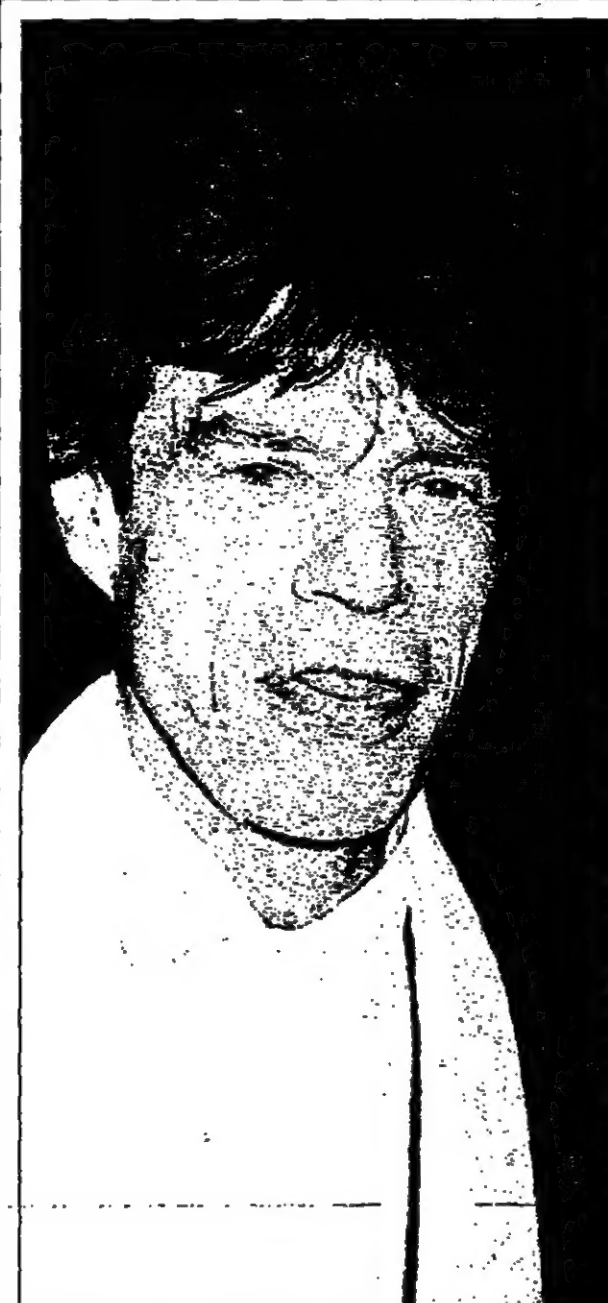
By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

AN NHS trust was fined £4,000 yesterday for putting patients and staff at risk by failing to maintain adequate safety standards in a hospital's laboratories and mortuary.

The prosecution was the first brought by the Health and Safety Executive against a hospital that had not arisen from a specific accident or ill-health. The HSE inspection of Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon disclosed a lack of policy and training for manual workers, inadequacies in the laboratory handling ar-

rangements for dangerous micro-organisms, and poor ventilation in the mortuary.

Swindon magistrates were told that there was also no system to separate syringes and other clinical waste from ordinary waste and a lack of regular maintenance of electrical equipment. Swindon and Marlborough Hospital Trust admitted a single charge of breaching health and safety rules. Afterwards the HSE said it was to inspect 40 other NHS trusts across the country.



Mick Jagger: said to be perfect for Age Resource

## Charity targets Mick Jagger, rock of ages

MICK JAGGER, 54, has been asked by Age Resource if he will become one of their patrons. The charity, sometimes described as the "youth wing" of Age Concern, says it is looking for "interesting, attractive, older people who

haven't let age stop them" to become figureheads. Spokeswoman Sandie Huntington said: "It would be lovely to get him. Young people would say: 'Hey, this organisation has got Mick Jagger as its patron.'"

## BSkyB saviour joins Millennium project

By NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Government has asked Sam Chisholm, the television chief who rescued BSkyB, to join the troubled Millennium Dome project.

Ministers are expected to announce soon that Mr Chisholm, 57, who is leaving the satellite broadcaster at the end of the year, will take a senior post with the state-owned company responsible for the £750 million scheme.

Mr Chisholm, a New Zealander, will become deputy to Bob Ayling, the chief

executive of British Airways, who chairs the ten-strong board of the New Millennium Experience Company. Both posts are unpaid.

His task will be to make a success of the Government's plans to use a combination of National Lottery and private and public money to stage a spectacular celebration of the year 2000. Mr Chisholm will chair an "executive committee" of board members to speed and streamline decision-making. One insider said: "Having a more hands-on executive committee of the board is very welcome."

Mr Chisholm is widely credited with transforming BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. On his arrival as chief executive in 1990, the company was losing £14 million a week. Last week, Mr Chisholm announced profits for BSkyB of £314 million.

Clare Short, who in an interview with *CAFOD*, the magazine of the Catholic aid agency, described the Millennium Dome as a "silly temporary building" whose funding could be better used in fighting poverty, has withdrawn the remark.



Chisholm: unpaid deputy

## Saturday in THE TIMES MAMBO



The elephant that escaped death through a mine field weekend

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# The garden that kept on growing

It was a lawn unto-itself. Now it must be cut down to size. Kathryn Knight reports on the case that puts an extra limit on country life

ONE man went to mow down his garden meadow yesterday under the orders of a court. David Williamson was quite proud of the head-high wild grass which had become a haven for hedgehogs and butterflies. Unfortunately, it was a kind of hell for some of his neighbours.

Mr Williamson's wild grass is all around his detached house in a quiet close appropriately named Meadow End. Other residents go in for more traditional gardening, with things like, say, lawnmowers, and some plants.

The legal ruling in their favour has now sparked a furious debate over the "natural" look versus the manicured look in the leafy lanes of Gotham village, Nottinghamshire.

Year after year, the residents of Meadow End have been tending their manicured lawns and flower beds, casting dark looks at the overgrown 60ft jungle at the end of the neat close.

Mr Williamson, 54, and his wife Nadine moved into the picturesque road 15 years ago, adopting a different approach in their garden to their green-fingered neighbours, cultivating nothing but weeds and overgrown shrubbery.

At first, residents were prepared to tolerate them. But after the weeds at the end of the road approached head height, they complained to the local council. A council officer visited the house in June after repeated complaints.

Officials served an enforcement notice on the couple. The authority's development control committee voted to take action after a second visit last month discovered that the garden even more overgrown.

A spokesman said: "In the end, we had no choice but to take legal action after they ignored a string of notices."

On Tuesday, Nottingham magistrates gave the William-



Nadine Williamson: ordered to pay costs

sons a 12-month conditional discharge — with £75 costs each — for failing to uphold the order.

The couple now have to clear up their garden patch, or they could face another appearance, this time for being in contempt of court.

"It's about time," said Tom Bellamy, who lives opposite them. "They get away with it every year. Everybody around here takes pride in their gardens, but this is an eyesore. He should burn it all off."

"I am fed up with what has gone on. Mr Williamson does not work — he has got plenty of time to sort his garden out," he said.

Another jubilant neighbour said: "It's an embarrassment when we have visitors round. People think we've got the Addams Family living at the end of the street."

"It's a bit of a running joke

in the village. There are so many beautiful gardens here, yet we've also got one of the worst in the country."

But as he began the hefty task of hacking down his lawn to reasonable size yesterday, Mr Williamson said that he was fed up with everyone interfering.

He said he not neglected it out of laziness, but liked his garden as it was, and had the support of some neighbours who liked it as a haven for wildlife.

"We're fed up with the council interfering," he added. "I've already started to burn down the front, but there's a lot to do."

"The thing I'm worried about now is the hedgehogs in the undergrowth. If I harm them, I'm worried that I will be reported for cruelty to animals."

Roy Gubbins, his next-door neighbour whose home directly overlooks the garden, said that he had always enjoyed his view.

"We get lots of different butterflies in that garden, and it's because they have a natural garden," he explained.

"They're lovely people, and I can't see that they're doing any harm."

"It's not a free country any more. A man's home is his castle — he can do what he likes in it. I suppose that you could moan about the view, but it all depends what you like looking at."

Last night, Paul Cox, a solicitor for Rushcliffe Borough Council, said that the couple had admitted breaching an enforcement notice when they had appeared before the court.

"The authority serves enforcement notices on landowners a couple of times a year."

"Generally people comply and it goes no further. As far as I can recall, this is the first time that there has been a court action over a domestic garden."



The garden at Meadow End. One neighbour said: "People think we've got the Addams Family living at the end of the street"

## Shaggy look is cutting edge of fashion

Horticultural experts tell Michael Hornsby of the merits of nature versus nurture

THE couple fined for allowing their garden to become a jungle of weeds may only have been carrying to extremes a trend for less formal landscaping.

Gareth Hughes, assistant producer of BBC2's *Gardeners' World*, said manicured lawns and highly structured flowerbeds were losing popularity. "There is a trend towards growing perennial plants in longish grass to give a natural meadow-like look. We are also seeing the rise of what you might call the shaggy border."

The old idea was that you put small plants at the front, large ones in the middle and big bold ones at the back to create a tiered effect. Now people are allowing plants to sprout

in all directions and even incorporating things like opium poppies, that shed their seeds all over the place."

Stephen Anderton, gardening writer for *The Times*, said: "We are seeing a move towards the use of perennial plants in self-sustaining communities that require less maintenance. But just letting your garden fill with weeds is not quite the same."

Suzanne Lucas's benign neglect of her half-acre garden at Mere, Wiltshire, has earned 13 gold medals from the Royal Horticultural Society. Miss Lucas has encouraged more than 200 varieties of woodland plants to grow.

"That does not mean that a more conventional garden cannot be a very valuable place for wildlife, too, if you plant the right flowers. There may have been a good reason why

docks overrun neighbours' gardens, but there is certainly a lot to be said for a wild garden," said Miss Lucas, who is president of the Royal Society of Miniaturists.

The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust said an overgrown garden could be excellent for wildlife. Richard Brown, conservation manager, said: "Rank grass is an extremely good shelter for insects, hedgehogs, frogs and toads, particularly at this time of year. Nettles are very good plants for butterflies."

"That does not mean that a more conventional garden cannot be a very valuable place for wildlife, too, if you plant the right flowers. There may have been a good reason why

this couple were told to clean up their garden, but the action taken against them seems rather harsh. A formal garden is not necessarily the only desirable kind."

Lord Carrington, the former Foreign Secretary, and his wife have clipped yew hedges and immaculate lawns at their home near Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. Lady Carrington said: "I do not want to comment on this particular case, but I can understand that masses of thistles and weeds blowing into neighbours' gardens would not be very popular. We prefer the more manicured look; we do not go in for this present fashion of having a wild part of the garden."



The site at Scares, Shetland, where an Iron Age village has been uncovered, including a very well-preserved house

## Archaeologist drops in on 2,000-year-old house

AN ARCHAEOLOGIST discovered what is believed to be the most perfectly preserved Iron Age house ever found in Britain — after inadvertently putting his foot through its 2,000-year-old roof.

Experts believe that the discovery of the entire building at the Old Scares site, which is next to Shetland's main airport, could become among the biggest and most important excavations in Britain at the moment. Excitement over the find was last night tinged with frustration on how the work would proceed because of a lack of funding.

Work on the site at Sumburgh was almost finished for the season when the ground gave way under the weight of the site supervisor, Alan Braby, an Edinburgh-based freelance archaeologist.

"His leg disappeared down a hole. He was lucky not to break it," said Val Turner, an archaeologist with Shetland Amenity Trust, which is partly funding the dig.

"We're gobsmacked, still pinching ourselves," she added.

A site worker in Shetland stumbled on an important discovery when he put his foot through an Iron Age roof, reports Helen Johnstone

"The hole is more than two metres deep and appears to be a room in a house with a corbelled stone roof, probably dating from around the time of Christ."

Ms Turner said the discovery was believed to be the biggest since Jarlshof, a celebrated multi-layered archaeological site a mile away.

Mr Braby was equally enthusiastic. Nursing a bruised leg, the archaeologist, who has worked on digs all over Britain, said last night: "I have never worked on anything as exciting and interesting."

Steve Dockrill, from Bradford University and director of excavation said the "incredibly exciting" discovery had been made as archaeologists were

cleaning up the site for photographs.

Other finds during the third season of excavations at Sumburgh include another Iron Age building, with yellow clay still plastered on the walls, and a wheelhouse with the remains of an iron pot containing the bones of an unidentifiable fish.

The area around Sumburgh Airport is surrounded by shifting sand dunes which have buried and preserved successive layers of human settlement.

Ms Turner and a team of archaeologists from Bradford University are frustrated that money has now run out and they can only cover up their finds for the winter and hope

to raise funds for a fourth season next year.

The dig, which attracted more than a thousand visitors this summer, has received funding from, among others, the European Union, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Shetland Islands Council, and Bradford University.

Ms Turner said that £500,000 would be needed over three years to complete work on the site which, she says, houses an entire Iron Age village.

This winter, the archaeologist Julie Bond will be analysing the dozens of new finds from the site. The team reconstructed the hearth in what is thought to be the ruins of a smithy and proved that a peat fire could easily raise a temperature high enough to smelt bog iron. Ms Turner says that the clay on the walls, as well as keeping the elements out, may have had an aesthetic purpose.

Last night Ms Turner's husband said that she and her team were "out celebrating on a beach in Shetland".

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# Ceasefire allows Ulster its quietest month in years

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA ceasefire, a month old yesterday, has given Northern Ireland probably its most peaceful four weeks since the present Troubles began 29 years ago.

Security sources said the IRA had almost completely shut its terrorist operations in advance of next month's peace talks, though there was still some violence from break-away loyalist and republican paramilitary groups.

No one is counting on the ceasefire lasting, but for the moment Northern Ireland is unusually relaxed. Security measures have been eased, tourists are returning and optimism within the business community is sky-high. "This month has been delightful and very, very relaxed," said Sam Cushnahan, director of the non-sectarian group Families Against Intimidation and Terror (Fait).

To enhance the air of

normality, the Government is actively considering the transfer of 18 republican prisoners from English to Irish jails. It was disclosed yesterday.

Security sources said that, in contrast to its last ceasefire, the IRA had sharply curtailed most other operations, including punishment beatings, kneecappings and surveillance. Stopping punishment attacks is considered a litmus test of Sinn Féin's commitment to peaceful methods. Only two republican punishment attacks have been recorded since July 20. During the previous 17-month ceasefire there were eight in the first month.

However, Fait said there was still intimidation, with the IRA giving several trouble-makers 24 hours to leave the Province. The IRA also attempted to rob a Dublin bank last month. But security sources said that, on security

grounds alone, Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State, would have no reason to exclude Sinn Féin from the peace talks when she makes her formal decision next week.

The danger on the republican side comes from the Continuity Army Council, a tiny breakaway group that strongly opposes the ceasefire and planted a 1,000lb bomb outside an hotel in Fermanagh on July 31. "They've got the capacity to do very nasty things, but they're not threatening the ceasefire," a senior security source said. Loyalist paramilitaries have been more active, carrying out at least seven punishment attacks in the past month.

The only obviously sectarian killing since July 20 has been that of James Morgan, 16, a Catholic whose mutilated body was dumped in pit full of cattle carcasses near his home in Co Down.



Mud in your eye: the actor Dustin Hoffman smearing mud on the pop singer Sting at the Turkish resort of Dalyan Golu. The men and their families are on a cruise of the Aegean. Sting, an environmental campaigner, urged Turkey to keep coastal development in check to preserve the area's natural beauty.

## Rise in badger numbers worries farmers

By MICHAEL HORSNELL  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS clashed with conservationists yesterday over a report showing a huge rise in the badger population over the past ten years. The finding has coincided with increased outbreaks of tuberculosis in cattle.

Wildlife campaigners hailed the rise in badger numbers as a victory for laws protecting the animals against persecution, but farmers said badgers were now out of control and should be culled in TB-infected areas.

Sir David Naish, the union's president, said: "In areas such as the South West, West Midlands and Wales, all the evidence points to diseased badgers infecting cattle with TB and causing farmers severe difficulties."

He added: "There is an urgent need for appropriate licences to be issued for the management of badgers where they are so abundant that they are leading to significant damage."

But Stephen Harris, of Bristol University's environmental sciences department, who wrote the report for the People's Trust for Endangered Species, said there was no proven link between the presence of badgers and TB in cattle.

"I do not think they need to be controlled," he said. "We are slowly starting to see the recovery of the badger from previous persecution and a return to the sort of species diversity generally that we should have. Badgers can give TB to cattle, but no one knows how. Killing badgers in huge numbers in the past has not been an effective way of eliminating the disease in cattle."

The report estimates that the total number of badgers has risen by 77 per cent, from 250,000 to more than 440,000, since 1988 when the last comparable survey was done, also by Professor Harris.

Last year 471 new outbreaks of TB were reported, two thirds of them in the South and West of England. Figures from the Ministry of Agriculture next month are expected to show a sharp rise this year.

## Pope is asked to name Mary as co-redeemer

By RICHARD OWEN AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

MANY of the eight million Roman Catholics in Britain and Ireland are supporting a worldwide appeal to the Pope to proclaim the Virgin Mary as a co-redeemer, placing her on a par with Jesus Christ.

A petition containing more than 40,000 signatures, organised in the United States, will be delivered to John Paul II at the Vatican by the end of the week — adding to the 4,340,000 signatures he has received in the past four years from 157 countries supporting the proposed dogma.

Fears are mounting among those who believe that proclaiming Mary as "co-redemptrix" or "mediatrix of all graces" would elevate her status beyond the honour accorded to her in many denominations and create a "Holy Trinity" in place of the Holy Trinity. Nicholas Coote,

an assistant general secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said yesterday: "This makes me feel uneasy. All one can say is that there are certain parameters beyond which you may not go."

"One of these is what is taught by Vatican Council II, [comprising] all bishops under the Pope. They were very

Daniel Johnson — page 16

emphatic indeed, saying that the maternal office of Mary towards human beings in no way obscures or diminishes the unique mediation of Christ. In 1 Timothy, it says there is one God and one mediator between God and man and that is Jesus Christ."

The Pope is a devotee of the Marian cult: he believes that

she has saved his life on several occasions, most notably during the attempt on his life in St Peter's Square in May 1981.

He may be tempted to have Mary elevated to co-redeemer while he can, given that he is 77 and in poor health. But while he can try to push doctrine in a particular direction, major doctrinal changes have to be made "by the whole Church", which in effect would mean a third Vatican Council.

The Second Vatican Council of 1962-65, although under pressure from devotees of Mary — including the current Pope, who attended in his former rank of Cardinal Wojtyla — confined itself to a restrained section on her: Paul VI, who was then Pope, declared her only to be Mother of the Church.

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# Foreigners face ban on bringing in their servants

Ministers are to act swiftly to curb cruelty towards domestic staff from abroad, reports Richard Ford

WEALTHY foreigners could be barred from bringing servants to Britain under proposals being studied by ministers to curb ill treatment and improve the working conditions of domestic staff.

The Government is to act after complaints that servants are kept in conditions close to slavery and have been subjected to abuse and cruelty by their employers. Most of the victims are women from the Philippines, India, Bangladesh and Africa who live with their employers in London.

Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, promised to introduce measures soon to tackle the exploitation of up to 20,000 domestic workers in Britain. He said: "I am very concerned by repeated allegations of ill treatment of domes-

tic workers allowed temporary entry into Britain to work for their foreign employer. Of course many of them are content but some of them have been subjected to ill treatment and a number of cases are quite appalling."

Measures being studied by Mr O'Brien and Home Office officials include withdrawing the 1980 concession that allows foreigners to bring their domestic servants with them.

Those who take advantage of the rule are often from Middle Eastern states who bring female Filipina, Indian and Nepalese domestic staff with them; and those from India, Bangladesh and African states who rely on their own nationals as servants.

There is also a growing number of British expatriates

who bring their foreign servants with them when they return to the UK.

The Home Office is also looking at letting foreign domestic workers change employers within a restricted category, or to give them access to an airline ticket home.

But there is official concern that by allowing servants to leave their employers, it would become more difficult to keep control of the domestic staff in Britain. Campaigners argue that the present system encourages staff to leave their job, change their identity and take other work illegally.

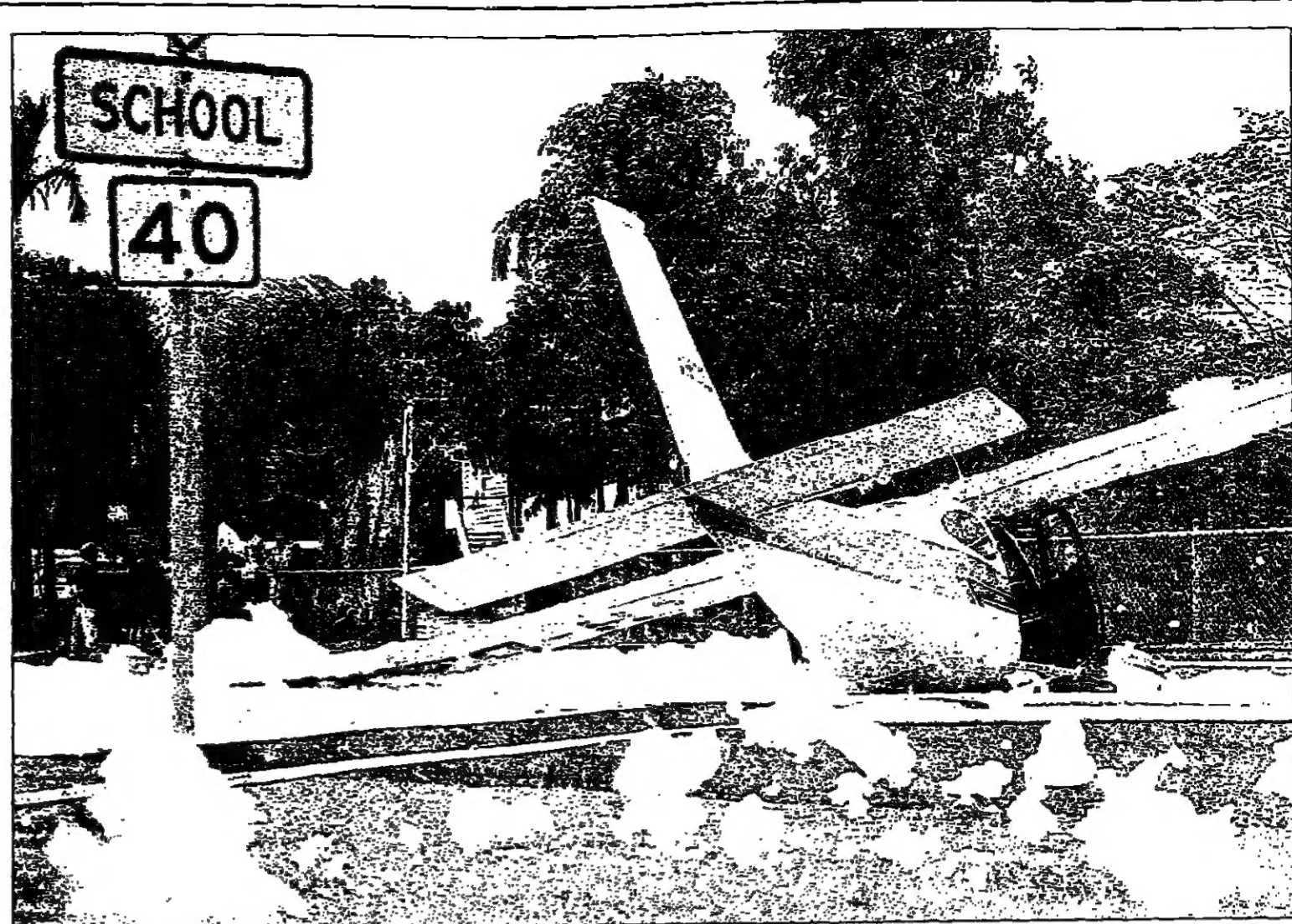
Mr O'Brien said that some domestic workers who had been subject to physical abuse had found it difficult to leave their employer because their passports had been removed and they had no money.

He has held talks with Kalayaan, the campaign for justice for overseas domestic workers, about improving the conditions under which servants are employed and whether minimum terms of employment could be introduced.

A spokeswoman for Kalayaan said that domestic staff should be admitted as workers in their own right and not be tied to another individual. She said that they received many complaints from domestic servants about employers holding on to their passports, paying very low wages and making them work 18 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Some never get time off but cannot escape because they have no money or passport," she added.

A survey by the organisation last year found that 50 per cent of domestic servants slept on the floor, and 81 per cent were not paid regularly or received less than arranged. Others complained of being locked in the house when the employer went out.



The Cessna plane which crash-landed on a road near a school in Cairns, Queensland, and one of the passengers, left, being helped away

## Britons pulled from plane crash on road

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BRITISH couple escaped serious injury after the light aircraft in which they were flying crash-landed on a main road beside a school playground in Australia.

Lee Medway, 29, an RAF corporal, and his wife Leigh Ann, 30, from St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, were pulled from the smoking wreckage of the Cessna 172 by the headmaster and walked away almost unscathed. They were the only passengers on the Reef Air Tours plane which was forced to land on the road in Cairns, Queensland, after developing engine trouble.

The pilot, David Manners, who scrambled out of the plane before collapsing

against a fence, is being treated for head and back injuries but the couple were released from Cairns Base Hospital and allowed to return to their hotel.

A hospital spokesman said: "They are fine. It appears they were very lucky."

Mr Medway has served in the repair support squadron at RAF St Athan for seven years and the couple live in married quarters at the base.

He was able to use his flying knowledge to give police a detailed description of what happened during the emergency shortly after take-off.

A police spokesman said: "They landed upright and collided with a street sign, then the plane spun around

and stopped abruptly on the road. It was incredible no one was killed. The pilot steered the plane through power lines and dodged the school."

Rescuers shut off the aircraft's fuel system and disconnected electrical systems to make it safe. Fuel was leaking out of the port wing. Police said the Civil Aviation Safety Authority had taken possession of the aircraft and the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation had launched an inquiry.

Mr and Mrs Medway were back at the Colonial Club Resort in Cairns last night, where a spokeswoman said that they did not wish to be disturbed.



## Detainees go on protest rampage

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

FIFTY immigration detainees went on the rampage yesterday to protest at the removal of an inmate from a detention centre run by Group 4.

Fires were lit in the library block at the centre and furnishings in other areas were smashed during the disturbances, which broke out early in the morning.

One hundred Thames Valley police, including some in full-riot uniform, were moved to Campfield House at Kidlington in Oxfordshire to ensure there was no mass break-out by the 184 detainees.

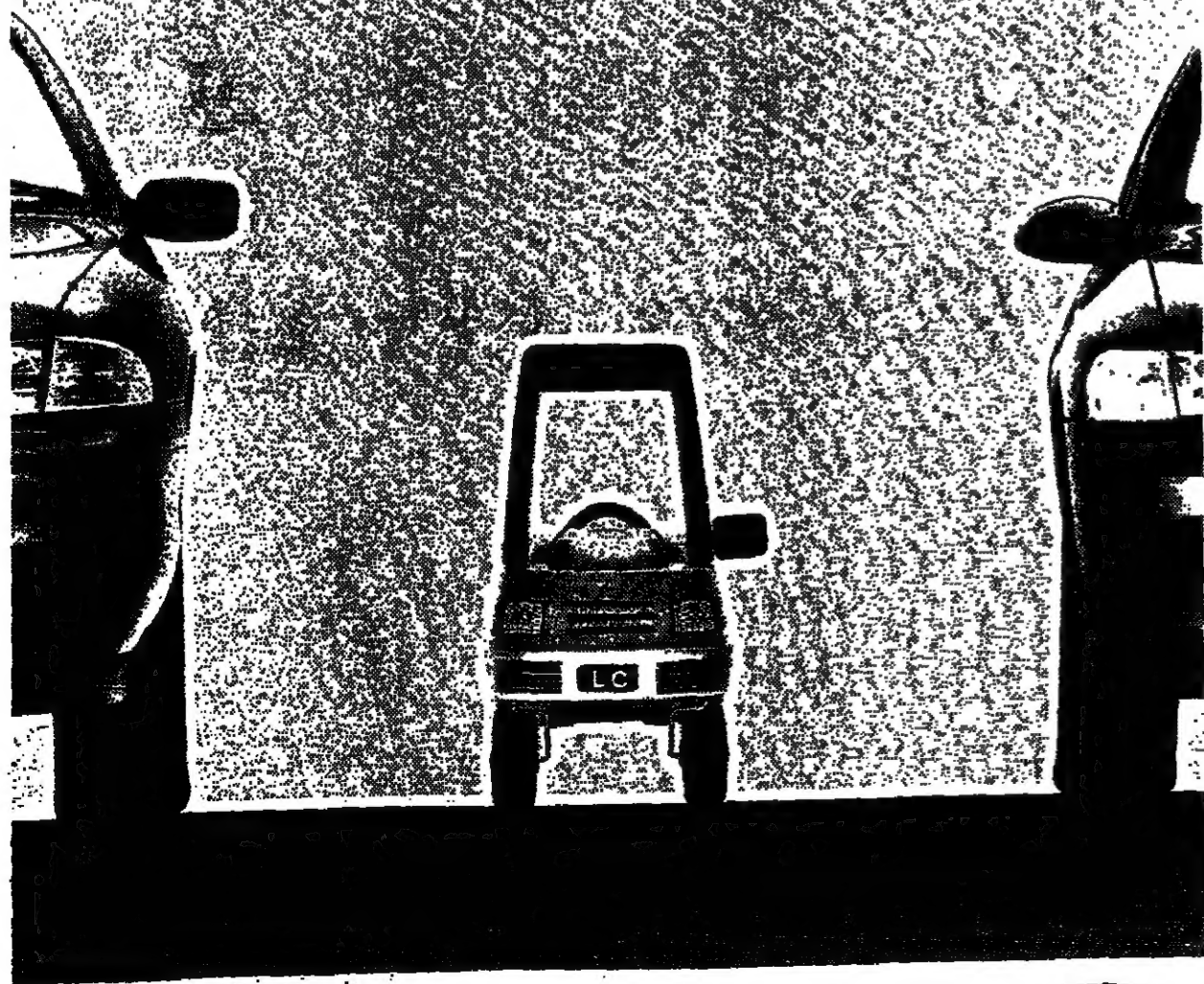
Police dogs and horses were stationed around the perimeter of the immigration detention centre as protests by a core of about 25 continued in the exercise yard throughout the day. A police helicopter

was also used. Two Group 4 staff were injured during the disturbances, which took place three months after a rooftop protest at the centre.

Dr Evan Harris, the Liberal Democrat MP for the area, said last night that the detention centre was a "powder keg" waiting to explode. Keeping asylum-seekers and immigration detainees cooped up was a recipe for disaster. Dr Harris added that something was very wrong with the way the centre was being run.

The present situation with detainees being removed to cells in Winslow Green jail, Birmingham, without notice and hordes of bored and depressed detainees milling around in centres without adequate access to help or advice is a recipe for disaster.

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# GCSE results show pupils still have a long way to go

## Education Minister says that the small rise is way off target for Britain's future success, report John O'Leary and David Charter

THE second small rise in GCSE pass rates in three years left schools well adrift of the Government's qualifications targets yesterday, despite another set of record results.

Experts said the increase of less than half a percentage point in the proportion of papers reaching the equivalent of the old O level signalled the end of the grade inflation which undermined the examination's credibility in its early years. The pass rate for A\* to C grades was 54.4 per cent.

The rise was the smallest since GCSE was introduced in 1988 with the exception of two

**Licas places** ..... pages 36-37

years ago, when coursework limits were imposed. The top two grades showed even smaller rises, with 3.6 per cent of entries attracting the A\*

Kim Howells, the Education and Employment Minister, said that candidates and their teachers should be proud of their achievements, but added: "We need many more of our young people achieving good results if we are to meet the very demanding standards we intend to set for national curriculum tests next year."

By 2000, ministers expect 85 per cent of 19-year-olds to have five high-grade GCSEs or

their equivalent, compared with about 70 per cent this year. The Government will set a separate target for 16-year-olds in the autumn, which officials said would require "further significant improvements".

Dr Howells expressed particular concern about a decline in English, where the pass rate dropped for the second successive year and entries were also down. While the number of 16-year olds fell by 1.3 per cent, entries for English fell by more than 2 per cent.

Alan Smithers, the head of Brunel University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, said the GCSE pass rates appeared to have reached a plateau: "This is the sort of increase which carries credibility. Some of the previous swings were due to changes in the system."

Traditional subjects showed a slump in popularity, with fewer taking English, French, geography, history, mathematics, economics, chemistry, biology and physics.

In contrast, more than a million grades were awarded in the combined science paper for the first time. There had been hopes last year that single-science subjects were recovering, but subject experts said yesterday that decline was virtually guaranteed by a ruling that students at state



**Helen Anderson, left, is considering legal action against her college after claiming that she failed an A level because she was taught the wrong syllabus. Miss Anderson, 18, lost her preferred university place because of the N grade in business studies. Her classmate, Louise Marshall, right, managed a C grade**

## Girl may sue over failure

because she had also studied accountancy. The syllabus blunder allegedly came to light three days before the examination, during revision at Washington Business College, near Sunder-

land. Miss Anderson, of Washington, said: "We put an awful lot of work into our studies for two years for nothing." Her mother, Carolyn, said: "We have consulted a solicitor and are considering legal action." The college said it had done everything it could to prepare its students for their examinations.

schools must either take the combined course or all three subjects separately. Only independent school students can choose one or two.

Entries were down 2.3 per cent for chemistry and 3.3 per cent in physics. Aside from about 70,000 entries in single

combined science, the total of a million grades for combined science reflects nearly 500,000 entries for the "double award" combined science course.

Caroline McGrath, of the Association for Science Education, said: "The vast majority of pupils are doing the double

award. The A-to-C percentage reflects that the top ability range are doing the three separately."

Entries were up 15 per cent for computing, 9 per cent for physical education, 7.6 per cent for home economics and 4 per cent for drama.

## Short courses win fewer top grades

**BY DAVID CHARTER**

THE first results from short-course GCSEs, which cover half the content of a full GCSE, show that pupils struggled to achieve top grades.

Candidates recorded one third fewer passes at A\* and at the old O-level threshold of C grade and above than those taking full GCSEs.

Short courses were introduced last year for three main reasons: to allow

students to gain a qualification in subjects they are required to take until they leave school, such as PE and religious studies: to give them a year-long taste of an extra subject, such as Spanish or German; or to continue with a subject otherwise dropped at 14, such as geography or history.

The lower success rate may mean that students either took them less seriously than full GCSEs or treated them as an experiment with a certain

subject. Just 30,683 short-course results were recorded this year and a far greater number is expected in 1998 as the qualification begins to catch on in schools. The qualification can be taken over one year or in half the weekly time over two years.

The A-to-G pass rate of 93.4 per cent compares with 98.5 per cent at the full GCSE. Just under 40 per cent of short courses were passed at A\* to C, against 54.4 per cent for full GCSE, and the 2.4


per cent A's on short courses was two thirds of the full course rate.

The most popular of the 12 "half-GCSE" subjects was religious education, taken by more than one-third of this year's candidates, which had the second highest A\*-to-C pass rate of 47.1 per cent.

Music had the highest rate for top grades, with 11.8 per cent of the 152 candidates recording an A\*, and 64.5 per cent a grade C or above.

GCSE RESULTS 1997										
Subject	No of Candidates	CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE of candidates gaining grade or better								
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Art and Design	221,543 228,882	5.5 4.6	18.6 16.9	36.5 34.3	62.1 59.2	80.1 77.9	91.5 90.4	97.3 96.9	99.6 99.5	
Business Studies	115,498 114,648	2.2 2.1	9.8 9.8	23.8 24.1	51.1 49.1	70.7 68.5	83.1 81.9	91.3 91.3	96.3 96.4	
Classical Civ	3,644 3,447	6.9 6.0	28.1 25.9	52.1 49.9	75.1 74.1	88.0 87.7	92.5 92.5	92.9 92.9	94.4 94.6	
Drama	85,500 82,165	3.5 3.7	19.5 20.7	45.4 47.9	69.6 72.5	84.5 87.0	94.8 94.8	98.4 98.4	99.6 99.6	
Economics	9,600 11,127	3.1 2.9	16.7 15.4	38.9 36.0	64.5 61.7	82.0 79.6	92.7 90.4	97.2 97.2	99.5 99.5	
English	649,559 663,009	2.0 2.0	10.7 11.0	29.5 30.3	58.0 58.8	78.0 78.6	90.5 90.7	97.2 97.2	99.4 99.4	
English Literature	492,678 491,650	2.8 2.7	13.7 13.9	35.5 36.2	62.2 61.2	81.7 80.8	92.1 92.0	97.8 97.8	99.5 99.5	
French	328,299 345,590	4.1 4.4	19.2 19.2	34.1 33.7	51.2 50.9	68.1 68.1	82.6 81.9	93.7 93.7	98.4 98.4	
Geography	290,201 302,298	3.9 4.0	16.4 15.6	34.9 33.5	56.1 53.7	70.9 69.4	85.1 84.9	94.1 94.1	98.4 98.2	
German	132,615 133,777	5.7 5.3	22.0 21.3	37.4 37.0	55.9 55.3	73.2 72.5	85.1 84.9	94.6 94.4	99.2 99.2	
Greek	93,177 985	5.3 4.0	21.3 17.6	37.0 34.4	56.0 54.2	69.0 72.5	84.9 87.9	94.4 96.0	98.4 98.0	
History	221,447 232,011	4.3 4.1	17.5 16.6	38.0 36.8	58.0 57.0	72.9 72.0	84.4 83.8	92.5 92.4	97.8 97.8	
Home Economics	104,863 97,453	1.8 1.5	9.6 8.7	24.5 23.4	44.1 43.2	64.9 64.0	82.6 81.8	93.3 93.2	98.3 98.1	
Humanities	35,582 45,982	2.2 2.3	9.6 10.6	23.2 26.4	42.1 44.1	61.8 61.7	78.9 77.4	91.2 90.5	97.9 98.4	
Computing	76,043 86,134	2.8 2.7	12.3 11.4	32.7 30.3	57.1 55.3	75.2 73.5	87.9 86.9	94.7 94.7	98.4 98.0	
Latin	11,673 12,174	28.8 21.1	59.2 54.6	79.8 77.0	89.8 88.0	96.0 95.5	96.9 97.4	97.8 98.0		
Mathematics	681,235 688,330	2.1 2.1	9.6 9.9	23.2 24.7	47.3 46.7	63.8 63.1	79.4 78.8	91.6 91.3	97.9 97.8	
Music	43,430 42,122	6.7 6.9	25.7 24.9	50.1 48.5	70.1 69.1	82.6 82.0	91.3 90.9	96.5 96.5	99.1 99.1	
Physical Education	87,106 80,031	4.4 3.9	13.5 12.7	28.6 27.7	47.5 46.5	72.6 70.6	88.6 87.7	96.7 96.2	99.3 99.2	
Religious Studies	118,546 116,549	4.9 4.4	17.0 16.4	35.7 35.2	56.7 55.9	71.8 70.6	83.4 82.7	91.9 91.6	97.2 96.9	
Science: Biology	47,743 48,276	10.6 10.5	35.0 33.5	65.1 63.8	84.5 83.4	92.9 92.5	97.3 97.2	99.0 99.0	99.2 99.2	
Science: Chemistry	45,797 46,885	13.7 11.5	35.6 34.2	64.9 63.6	86.8 86.0	94.2 94.0	97.7 97.5	99.0 99.0	99.2 99.2	
Science: Combined	1,007,640 897,422	3.5 3.1	10.4 10.2	28.0 27.8	48.4 48.4	70.2 70.4	84.4 84.4	95.5 95.5	98.4 98.4	
Science: Physics	44,892 44,446	13.6 13.3	36.2 35.3	65.7 65.5	86.2 85.3	92.8 92.9	97.4 97.0	99.0 99.0	99.2 99.2	
Social Science	4,387 4,441	1.1 0.7	4.5 4.4	18.8 15.0	38.3 36.9	59.5 57.6	75.1 72.6	88.1 85.8	95.1 93.8	
Spanish	43,826 42,592	8.4 7.7	29.4 28.3	44.9 43.4	59.3 58.4	73.1 74.0	83.3 84.4	93.9 94.1	98.0 98.0	
Technology	235,877 247,821	1.8 1.7	9.4 8.9	26.4 25.5	46.9 45.8	67.4 66.1	83.7 82.6	93.9 93.4	98.4 98.4	
Welsh 1st Lang	3,809 3,844	20 17	31 31	33 34	62 61	83 86	94 96	98 98	99 99	
Welsh 2nd Lang	7,438 7,848	10.8 10.6	27.0 26.4	40.7 41.5	59.8 59.2	78.4 75.0	88.1 86.7	95.4 94.8	98.5 98.4	
Welsh Literature	2,931 2,940	3.1 3.9	15.7 13.8	33.5 30.7	62.1 57.8	80.0 78.2	90.4 88.6	95.8 94.9	98.7 98.0	
Combined Subjects	31,011 37,334	1.1 0.9	8.0 6.9	26.0 23.6	49.6 46.1	69.7 66.5	89.1 83.0	94.9 93.5	98.0 98.5	
Other Mod Langs	29,934 28,866	17.8 16.1	47.3 46.4	64.0 62.8	76.4 75.6	87.1 85.6	93.7 92.8	97.7 97.5	99.8 99.8	
Other Sciences	22,866 22,484	21.6 23.3	48.4 50.3	68.5 68.5	76.6 76.6	86.8 86.8	93.0 93.0	98.3 98.3	99.0 99.0	
Other Soc Sciences	38,789 41,559	2.8 2.0	10.8 11.6	26.7 31.2	50.0 51.8	68.0 61.2	83.9 80.3	93.7 93.1	98.0 98.1	
Other Technology	22,862 23,381	11.5 2.9	25.1 12.3	41.5 26.6	62.0 46.6	80.2 64.4	90.3 81.6	93.1 92.7	98.3 98.5	
All Other Subjects	108,748 112,917	2.2 2.3	12.6 12.8	31.8 31.6	56.8 56.1	75.3 74.9	92.9 87.7	95.2 95.1	98.5 98.6	
All Subjects	5,415,176 5,478,872	3.6 3.4	14.0 13.7	32.1 31.7	54.4 54.0	73.1 72.6	86.5 86.0	94.9 94.7	98.5 98.5	

<sup>a</sup> 1996 results in italics



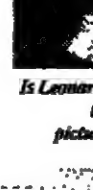
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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

# Boy's death raises cliff-jumping fears

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BOY has died after plunging from cliffs on to underwater rocks in what police fear is a new craze of cliff-jumping, in which teenagers urge each other to leap from great heights into the sea.

Coastal patrollers have reported seeing dozens of young boys jumping into the sea along the South Tyneside coast.

Neil Nicholson, 15, was found lying motionless in the water at the foot of cliffs at Frenchman's Bay, near South Shields, on Tuesday. A friend had dragged him from the water on to rocks and tried to save him, but Neil slipped back into the water while his friend tried to get help. He had been floating in the water for between ten and 15 minutes before firefighters and coastguards were able to reach him. He was pronounced dead on arrival at South Tyneside General Hospital.

Yesterday South Shields police said that he had suffered a head injury, but they were still trying to establish



Peter Collins, left, has seen teenagers jumping at least 50ft at the spot where Neil Nicholson, right, died

how he died. He was wearing a wetsuit, as was his friend. These are often worn by cliff-jumpers.

However, police said there was no evidence to suggest that Neil and his friend had been jumping into the water. Chief Inspector Glynn Williams, of South Shields police, said: "As far as we are aware the boy has lost his footing and suffered a heavy blow to the head on the way down.

Everyone tried their best to rescue him, but the tide was high and this was in an awkward spot."

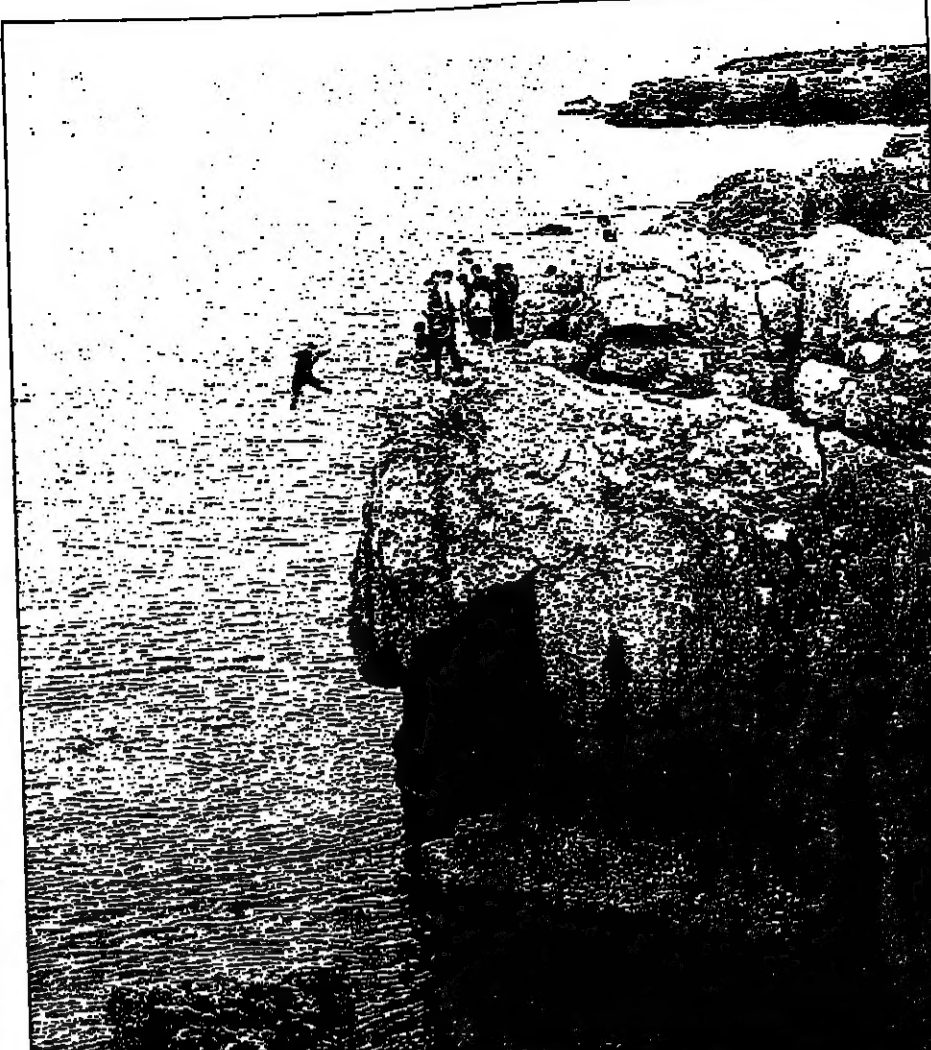
Station Officer Dave Hamilton, of South Shields Fire Brigade, said the boy's friend told crews they had been throwing stones into the water. He said: "He told me they had been climbing when his friend lost his balance and fell. He managed to scramble down to the water to his

friend, but he already looked very bad. He then went to raise the alarm and get help."

Last night Neil's father, Norman, 42, said: "Neil was a typical teenage lad who liked to do things people of that age do. He was certainly not jumping off cliffs into the sea. He was climbing over a high rock when he lost his footing and slipped. But he was not 50ft up at the time. Neil was wearing a wetsuit because he had been bodysurfing."

"We are all devastated. His friend is very upset, too. I have been round to see him and he is in a terrible state. He did all he could to pull Neil out of the water."

Peter Collins, a National Trust warden in the area, said he had seen a number of teenagers plunging from the cliffs at Frenchman's Bay. He said the divers often seemed to be showing off to watching girls. "They may feel very macho, but they are extremely foolhardy because the water isn't very clear at the moment and they are in great danger of hurting into rocks lurking under the surface."



Youths leaping from the cliffs into the sea at Frenchman's Bay in Tyne and Wear

## Scientists take the sting out of vaccines

By A STAFF REPORTER

VACCINATIONS may be made painless by a new technique which involves painting genetically engineered viruses on the skin.

The procedure has been tested only on mice, but the American development team says it could lead to painless vaccines which would not have to be administered by nurses or doctors.

Vaccines encourage the production of antibodies by exposing the body to weakened infectious organisms, or the toxins they produce. Most are administered by injection because, if swallowed, they would be destroyed by the digestive system.

The new method, developed by the genetics expert De-Chu Tang and scientists from the University of Alabama, uses viruses to carry the vaccine components into the body through the skin.

In one experiment, an immune response was seen in 23 out of 24 vaccinated mice. In another test, six out of 14 mice produced antibodies.

## £80,000 is awarded in claims of Met assault

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THREE men won £80,000 in damages plus costs from the Metropolitan Police yesterday. They had claimed that in two separate incidents they were assaulted by officers who then fabricated evidence against them.

Mark Thomas, 27, who was arrested in 1989 at a demonstration over the death of a friend, accepted £30,000 in settlement of a civil claim against the police. Timothy Murphy, 33, and John Racz, 37, who were arrested in a pub incident, accepted £30,000 and £20,000 respectively.

The officers involved in both incidents denied the allegations against them and the Metropolitan Police has not accepted liability.

After a statement setting out the terms of the settlements had been read out at the Central London County Court, Judge Galloway, who was presiding, said it had vindicated the three men.

Mr Thomas, of West London, was arrested after a demonstration at which, he claimed, he was kicked by a police officer. He was forcibly restrained by a second officer; the other policeman punched him in the face and grabbed him around the throat.

The officers had claimed that, during the demonstration, Mr Thomas had thrust a pole at the police and shouted "One of you is going to die". Mr Thomas was charged with affray and assault but at the end of a trial in 1990, the judge directed the jury to enter a not guilty verdict after finding that he had no case to answer.

In 1991 a stipendiary magistrate at Marylebone Magis-

trates' Court cleared Mr Murphy, of Stanwell, Surrey, of assault and obstruction and Mr Racz, of West London, of threatening behaviour. The men had been arrested after being told to leave a public house where Mr Murphy's wife had been helping to cash up at the end of the evening.

Mr Murphy was punched in the stomach and ribs and his head was struck against the ground. Mr Racz was dragged from a flat and pinned against a wall.

Outside the court, Mr Murphy criticised the attitude of the Metropolitan Police. "I think it is disgraceful that we have had no apology," he said. Mr Thomas said he would celebrate with his family.

Fiona Murphy, the solicitor who represented all three men, said that they had brought civil actions rather than rely on the police complaints process. She criticised Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, for not apologising to the men.

In a statement, Scotland Yard said that had any of the men made a complaint to the police, it would have been investigated. None of them had done so; they had chosen to pursue civil actions, the statement said.

It added that members of the public were increasingly "inclined to take out civil actions against the police rather than make a formal complaint as they stand a high chance of obtaining a large financial settlement. This is frustrating for the police, who are unable to bring disciplinary charges without co-operation from the plaintiff."

## Censors urged to come out of dark

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH film censors may be forced to justify their decisions in public under new plans being considered by the Government.

The British Board of Film Classification, which decides the classification of films in secret, would have to operate in a spirit of openness if the overhaul takes place. It has always maintained that, to do the job properly, it must conduct its business behind closed doors.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is said to be looking closely at the board because of concern over screen violence and the certificates given to films.

James Ferman, the director of the board, has been criticised for refusing to discuss controversial decisions such

as giving the film *Crash* a certificate and rating *The Lost World*, the sequel to *Jurassic Park*, as PG.

Yesterday the board denied that any review was taking place. Margaret Ford, the deputy director, said: "The BBFC has no knowledge of a radical shake-up of its organisation by the Home Office."

"All controversial decisions are the subject of press statements and are discussed in detail in the annual reports that are laid before Parliament and sent to all national newspapers."

The Home Office said there were no immediate plans to review the procedure, but insiders insist that Mr Straw believes the system needs modernising.

Film reviews, page 31

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# New cities spawned pride and squalor

THE 19th century was an age of cities. At its outset, London was the only city in England and Wales with a population that exceeded 100,000. By the time Victoria started her reign, that number had increased to six. At her death, the total had reached 25 and was still climbing.

During Victoria's rule, the proportion of the British population living in cities of such magnitude had all but doubled, to reach a third of the country. Britain had evolved from a rural society to an urban/suburban one in her lifetime.

London's population increased from 1.75 million to 4.25 million. Glasgow's command of Scotland was even more pronounced. The city contained 5 per cent of Scottish residents in 1801. That figure had reached 9 per cent in 1837 and would double before Edward VII became King.

The status of "city" was important for provincial towns as their populations increased. The struggle for official recognition occupied the energies of city fathers. Manchester was formally designated a city in 1853. Liverpool in 1880, Leeds in 1893 and Birmingham in 1896.

The full flowering of the industrial revolution combined with the advent of the railways to create the conditions for mass urbanisation. Trams, and in London the growing Underground network, provided modest fur-

**Tim Hames on oppression and reform in the mean streets of the 19th century**



ther assistance in the final two decades of the century. But the health consequences of this rush to the slums was catastrophic.

A set of particularly unpleasant outbreaks of cholera and advances in medical understanding promoted enthusiasm for the "Sanity Idea". It was not until the 1870s that Parliament produced the sort of measures that would eventually improve living conditions and force down levels of mortality.

The knowledge that the cities represented squalor as well as progress may explain the mixed views that leading Victorians had about the urban boom taking place around them. Fascination was tinged with horror. In the 1890s H.G. Wells described the expansion of the cities as a "sustained disaster". John Ruskin referred to the "great foul city of London" and William Morris called the capital "hideous". In terms of their human quality, almost all cities had

improved dramatically by the time of Victoria's death. Modern medicine had finally made its mark. Furthermore, the emergence of dynamic local authorities had begun the process of slum clearance and widespread sanitation. The most striking example was Birmingham, especially during Joseph Chamberlain's period as Mayor in the 1870s.

He municipalised the gas and water works, purchased large tracts of slumland for public improvement schemes, and revolutionised public expectations about city government. He was supported by an exceptional political machine

based on the Birmingham Liberal caucus. This organisation was the nearest that any British city came to the political parties common in American urban administration.

The Victorian antipathy to cities was based on rather more than their external appearances. The political consequences of social change were feared in many quarters. Cities were seen as the preserve of the "masses", thrown together with little chance of aristocratic influence. The Established Church was relatively weak compared with the combined forces of Nonconformism and secularism.

Middle-class radicalism and rising working-class identity represented threats to the Victorian order. Manchester, not London, was the birthplace of the Anti-Corn Law League and the same city was associated with the Chartist movement of the 1830s and 1840s. Birmingham produced its Liberal caucus, but Glasgow and the cities of northern England would spawn and nurture the Labour Party.



Glasgow's Argyle Street in the late 1890s. Many solidly built tenement homes of that era are much sought after.

A TIME-CAPSULE of late Victorian Glasgow is preserved in the Tenement House in the city centre, more or less untouched since it was built in 1892. A family that took up residence in 1911 altered virtually nothing and stayed until 1975. The last occupant was Agnes Toward, a typist with a shipping firm. Her rosewood piano is still there, so is the old kitchen range and the kitchen sink with brass taps and zinc wash-

**A glimpse behind the door of history**

board. Tenement sinks were known as jawboxes: near the window, they were the place where neighbours talked across the courtyard. The Tenement

House has a bedroom, but Miss Toward and her mother before her probably reserved that for lodgers. They themselves would have slept in the bedroom, a cupboard in the kitchen kept warm by the adjacent range. In less genteel tenements, bedrooms would have accommodated whole families. □ The Tenement House, 145 Buccleuch Street; open daily until October 31, 2pm-5pm. Tel 0141-333 0183.



St George's Hall: vision of justice and the arts

## Hall of fame grew strong as young architect faded

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

VICTORIA described it as worthy of ancient Athens. The Prince of Wales says it is one of the greatest buildings of the past 200 years.

The neo-classical St George's Hall in Liverpool was built in an era when confidence and wealth went hand in hand in the great maritime city. Harvey Lonsdale Elmes won a contest to design a hall for a musical festival, and a separate competition to design an assize court. The city fathers combined the two. Elmes was just 23.

Work began in 1842. The frail and pale Elmes, from London, superintended at huge cost to his health. At 30, he contracted tuberculosis, and died three years later.

Architects have marvelled that the young man could have come up with such a colossal vision: his father said he was a martyr to the god of

architecture. The work was completed by Elmes's more robust mentor, Professor C.R. Cockerell.

The building played a central role in the city's life until 1984, when the judges left for a modern complex. In 1867, Dickens delivered readings in the hall. W.S. Gilbert was a barrister in the civil court. More than 2,000 convicts walked down the stone steps to the condemned cell.

Among its features are a sunken tile floor made by Milton of Stoke-on-Trent. Today the trustees are hoping for £30 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to restore the building.

St George's Hall, Liverpool. Open daily until August 31: £2.00 adults, 50p children. OAPs and unwaged. From September, serves as a conference centre, but tours available on 0151-707 2391.

NEXT

The last of the series: Victorian religion and death

## NatWest Business Accounts Interest Rates

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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

# Arafat links up with militants to defy Israelis

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT'S Palestinian Authority yesterday sought out militant Islamic groups to forge a common front against Israel in light of the Arab world's deepening disillusionment over the peace process.

Mr Arafat convened a two-day forum in Gaza City, with the participation of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, in what he called "national unity" talks. He called on the militant groups to join forces with the Palestinian people against Israeli policies.

Mr Arafat said that "all options are open to the Palestinians against Israel's attempts to humiliate them".

The military wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad are open enemies of the Jewish State and have claimed responsibility for the suicide

bombings against its citizens in recent years.

Observers described as significant Mr Arafat's decision to hold a dialogue with Hamas so soon after last month's double suicide bombing in Jerusalem which killed 15 people. The meeting was being seen as a public forum to air Palestinian anger over Israeli sanctions after the attack, including closing the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, an senior adviser to Mr Arafat, said the meeting would continue today but in the West Bank town of Ramallah. "All the Palestinians under the flag of the PLO are standing together to face the challenges and the crisis," he said. Asked about Israeli criticism over the participation of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, he replied: "This

is an internal Palestinian affair. This is the Palestinian Authority policy to contain all the Palestinian groups under the flag of the PLO."

If such unity could be achieved, those groups would be obliged to cease their criticism of the PLO decision to sign peace accords with Israel in 1993. But militant Hamas officials based outside the Palestinian areas said that the organisation would push Mr Arafat to scrap the accords and begin a new armed struggle.

Israeli security officials viewed the participation of the fundamentalist groups in yesterday's meeting as a sign of their satisfaction over Mr Arafat's refusal to crack down on militant Islamic movements. His willingness to talk to Hamas leaders rather than arresting them sent a clear

message that he does not take orders from America or Israel.

Yesterday Israel's air force launched its biggest attack in Lebanon for 16 months in retaliation for a Hezbollah rocket attack against the Jewish state. Warplanes blasted a power line feeding south Leb-

anon's largest city and Hezbollah guerrilla bases west of the border with Syria, and dropped bombs near a Lebanese Army position.

The three strikes, in the space of two hours, added to a spiral of violence that began on Monday and has pushed to the brink of collapse a 1996

agreement not to target civilians on the last active Arab-Israeli front line.

Washington: New American peace initiatives in the Middle East were stalled once again by Mr Arafat's declaration yesterday that he would not submit to Israeli demands for a crackdown on terrorism



Yassir Arafat and Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi, a top leader of Hamas, at the national unity meeting in Gaza yesterday

## Mir crew in space 'plug' for milk

Jerusalem: A hole in his space station was not the only thing Vassili Tsibilyev, the former commander of the Mir space station, plugged on his star-crossed mission: he also made a television commercial for Israeli milk.

Channel Two television yesterday broadcast a preview of the advertisement showing Mr Tsibilyev swallowing a floating globule of long-life milk which he squeezed out of a carton covered with Hebrew script.

The 'Milk in Space' advertisement is the story of a cosmonaut who, hundreds of miles away in space and months away from home, craves fresh-tasting milk," said a spokeswoman for Gitam/BBDO, the advertising agency that produced the commercial for Tnuva, Israel's biggest food manufacturer.

She said \$450,000 (£280,000) was budgeted for the 90-second advertisement and a fee, which she declined to disclose, was paid to the Russian Space Agency. She said she did not know if the crew were paid. (Reuters)

(Tom Rhodes writes). His statements further undermined efforts by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, to bring momentum to the otherwise deflated peace process. Ms Albright is set to visit the region but the trip's details have yet to be announced.

## Blunders led to jet crash

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A CATALOGUE of errors was blamed yesterday for the crash of a ValuJet aircraft last year which plummeted into the Florida Everglades killing all 110 people on board.

The National Transportation and Safety Board said the Federal Aviation Administration, a maintenance contractor, and ValuJet Airlines, one of America's cheapest carriers, were all responsible for the crash.

Investigators found that a cargo hold fire spread rapidly through the DC9 soon after take-off from Miami International airport in May last year. The plane, which had no fire detection or suppression systems in the hold, spiralled nose-first into the alligator-filled swamp.

The most strident criticism in the board's report was reserved for the FAA. "Had the FAA required fire/smoke-detection and/or fire-extinguishing systems in the cargo compartments, as the safety board recommended in 1988, ValuJet Flight 592 would likely not have crashed," said the report.

In tracing the causes, investigators had found 144 oxygen generators removed by Sabre-Tech, the maintenance firm, from another ValuJet aircraft and placed on Flight 592 for

shipment to the airline's hub in Atlanta.

Normally the generators, each the size of a small beer can, are installed above the passenger compartment and are activated automatically in the event of unexpected decompression at high altitudes. The reaction generates heat as high as 500F but, when installed in the ceiling, the canisters are insulated.

On the flight in question, however, the 144 crated generators were carried as cargo. Maintenance men said the outdated canisters were incorrectly marked as repairable and a stock clerk compounded the error by directing a shipment clerk to label them as empty. Despite still containing highly reactive chemicals, they were then stored uninsulated in the hold on top of two large inflatable tyres.

Shortly before or after take off to Atlanta, at least one of the canisters fell from its box, detonating an in-built percussion cap that set off the oxygen generating reaction which led to the tyres bursting into flames.

Amid the recorded shouts of "Fire, fire, fire" from passengers, the plane plunged 6,000 ft in 30 seconds, leveling off momentarily before plunging into the swamp.

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# 11 feared dead in French grain silo explosion

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A HUGE explosion in a grain silo near Bordeaux in western France yesterday morning left 11 workers buried and feared dead beneath tonnes of concrete rubble and grain. A twelfth man was pulled from the destroyed Sembla cereals plant at the port of Blaye on the Gironde River north of Bordeaux, but as scores of firemen and rescue workers dug through the wreckage last night, hopes of finding more survivors were fading. Six other workers were treated for minor injuries. Firefighters said that the blast probably was caused by a build-up of static electricity and dust particles in the silo, combined with fermentation of the grain in the summer heat. Some workers for the cereal storage company were loading a ship when the explosion took place shortly after 10am local time, destroying one 100ft silo and badly damaging two others. "There was an enormous ball of fire," one witness said. A passing lorry driver said he saw "windows exploding and flames reaching 50 metres into the air". More than 150 rescue

workers, using sniffer dogs and helicopters, were combing through the mounds of concrete, metal and grain, but the danger of the two damaged silos collapsing was impeding rescue efforts, a firefighter said. The silos contained more than 13,000 cubic metres of corn, oats and barley. "We have done everything that can be done by hand. We are waiting for heavy machinery to do the rest," Michel Falot, chief of the fire brigade, said yesterday. Most of the missing workers are believed to have been in an office between two of the silos when the explosion happened, destroying the platform underneath the building from which the cereals were being loaded. The explosion could be heard from several miles away, according to radio reports. The injured man pulled from the devastated building was flown to hospital in Bordeaux, suffering from a broken leg and severe shock. Jean-Claude Gaysot, the Transport and Housing Minister, flew to the scene of the disaster and said that he had given immediate orders for



Firefighters, above, search for survivors among the wreckage of the grain silo at Blaye and, below, a general view of the site of the disaster

new safety precautions. He said that he and Christian Plerret, Secretary of State for Industry, had "given instructions that in every department in every region of France, local authorities carry out the necessary checks to ensure that such an incident can never happen again". Six hours after the initial explosion, rescue workers had still not been able to dig down to the destroyed office where the missing workers, eight of them company secretaries, were thought to be buried. By early evening sniffer dogs had located four people under the rubble, and cranes were being brought in to remove the heavy concrete debris to try to free them. In October 1982, 12 people were killed in a similar accident when a silo containing malt exploded near Metz. Investigators concluded that the blast was caused by a build-up of dust and insufficient ventilation. Grain silo explosions are a known risk. Jean-Claude Laforest, of the Government's INRS research institute, said. Grain stored in static conditions poses little danger, but when cereal dust is stirred up into a cloud it becomes highly combustible, M Laforest said.

## Keyhole cannabis derails train drivers

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

FANS are to be installed in South African commuter trains to blow away the smoke from dagga, locally grown cannabis, which is threatening to send drivers off the rails. Doors to the drivers' tiny cabs are also to be sealed and keyholes covered. It has become a joke among dagga smokers to take over the front carriages to blow smoke through keyholes. Chris de Vos, who is general secretary of the mainly white 8,000-strong South African Footplate Association, said yesterday. Both the association and Metrorail, which runs rail commuter services between townships and the country's main centres, said that the situation was most serious in KwaZulu/Natal province, where most dagga is grown. "Last week one of our drivers was forced to stop his train for 50 minutes at Cato Ridge (near Durban) because he was getting high on the dagga fumes," Mr de Vos said. The problem has been getting steadily worse for the past three years, particularly in the Durban area and, to a lesser extent, in the Cape Town and Johannesburg regions. "The association has now advised all its members to stop their trains if they start to feel woozy. 'Of course, the commuters become angry when they are made late for work, but it is better than a driver carrying on and having an accident,' Mr de Vos said. "We're playing with lives and we are sick and tired of it."



## Archbishop chosen to fight evil of crime

Tegucigalpa, Honduras: The National Legislature has appointed the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Honduras as chief of the newly formed National Police. The vote was 126-2 in favour of Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, who is also president of the Latin American conference of bishops. One opposition legislator and one member of the ruling Liberal Party

voted against. Mgr Rodriguez was not immediately available for comment. Normally, the Vatican prohibits clergymen from holding government jobs without special dispensation. The MP's decision was part of an effort to overhaul law enforcement in the Central American nation of 5.7 million people, to make it more professional and take it away from the military and place it

under civilian authority. For the past 33 years the current 6,000-member police force has been part of the military which ruled Honduras for 17 years until 1981, when it relinquished power in favour of elected civilians. Crime has been increasing for at least the past six years and the police have been increasingly criticised for not being able to cope with it. (AP)

## Punk designer's vestments enliven Pope's Paris trip

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

A FASHION designer who dresses punk groups and rock stars has created couture vestments for the Pope for his visit to Paris from today until Sunday. Jean-Charles Castelbajac, former style guru of The Sex Pistols and The New York Dolls, and who has dressed Elton John, has also designed rainbow-coloured chasubles for the 5,000 priests and 500 bishops who will officiate at the 12th Festival of Youth. While the Pope is often accused by critics of being too conservative in his theological approach, the same cannot be

said of his fashion sense: the 77-year-old pontiff has a penchant for wearing white Doc Marten boots beneath his cassock. During the Paris trip, the Pope will wear M de Castelbajac's creation in immaculate white covered in white embroidery with a few touches of colour by master French embroiderer, Lesage. The priests will wear white chasubles emblazoned with a vivid stripe of colour in either red, yellow, orange, green or blue — each representing one of the five continents. When the priests are assembled, M de Castelbajac explained, a

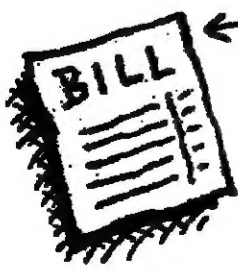
rainbow effect will be created. Those administering Holy Communion will also carry azure blue umbrellas decorated with a dove of peace. For the ten faithful who will be baptised by the Pope during an open air Mass at the Champ de Mars near the Eiffel Tower, M de Castelbajac has created a reversible cape. One side is sombre and the other white, which he says symbolises the passage from darkness to light. For the 500,000 young people from 50 countries who are expected to attend the festival, the designer has

come up with brightly coloured T-shirts, baseball caps and bandannas. M de Castelbajac agreed to design the holy robes without charge after being approached by French Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger on behalf of the Vatican. The designer accepted without hesitation. This is not the first time the Pope has worn designer robes. Last Easter he was seen in the work of Gai Mattiolo, a Roman designer known as "the new Valentino" who dresses Nicole Kidman and Daryl Hannah.



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# Tourist in icy plunge to save Rome fountain

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY reacted with national outrage yesterday after an attack by three unemployed Romans on Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers in Piazza Navona in the heart of the capital. A young tourist from Northern Ireland who dived into the icy waters of the fountain to rescue the damaged pieces was hailed as a hero.

The media treated the incident as a major act of terrorism, condemning a mindless act of vandalism, and the news led all television bulletins. There were calls for heavier fines and jail sentences for damage to the nation's artistic heritage.

Professor Federico Zeri, a leading art expert, said that it was time the army was called in "to protect the country's heritage".

Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor of Rome, said: "Enough is enough. From now on we must severely punish anyone who fails to respect our unique cultural heritage."

The damage happened when three unemployed men, aged between 33 and 43 -- all from Rome, and all with petty

criminal records -- clambered into the fountain. One tried to climb up the statue, breaking off the tail of a sea monster between the figures representing the Ganges and the Danube. It fell into the water in three pieces.

When onlookers called the



Bernini Baroque master

police, two of the men climbed out and ran off, but the third was arrested. The other two, identified because of their wet clothes, were caught shortly afterwards. They go on trial tomorrow. Their defence lawyer said they would claim they

had been trying to cool off, and the damage had been accidental.

Il Messaggero said that police were reluctant to climb into the fountain because they did not want to get their uniforms wet. They asked Claran Shevlin, 37, from Augher in Co Tyrone, who was wearing a T-shirt, cycling shorts and sandals. One of the officers helped him to climb into the basin of the fountain, where the water is waist deep, and to apologise from the crowd. Mr Shevlin submerged himself three times to bring up the pieces.

"I didn't need asking twice," Mr Shevlin said. "We Irish are happy when we can be of service. The pieces were heavier than I expected and the water was very, very cold. But I didn't mind."

An Italian passer-by bought him a blue Italian national football shirt from a street vendor. Mr Shevlin, a Roman Catholic, is a member of a mixed group of Protestants and Catholics staying at Lanuvio, near Rome, as part of a European Union town twinning programme.



Claran Shevlin leaves the Fountain of the Four Rivers after rescuing the tail. The fountain, unveiled in 1651, was dedicated to Pope Innocent X

The marble fountain, with an Egyptian obelisk in the centre, is the only one designed in its entirety by Gian Lorenzo Bernini, the Baroque sculptor. It was unveiled in 1651 and was dedicated to Pope Innocent X, its massive

allegorical figures represent the Nile, the Plate, the Danube and the Ganges rivers.

According to legend, the figure representing the Nile has its face covered so that it cannot see the facade of the church of Sant' Agnese, de-

signed by Bernini's rival Francesco Borromini. Equally, the figure representing the River Plate is raising its hand, as if to stop the church falling down. Alas, neither myth can be true: the church was begun a year after the fountain was

completed. The true explanation is that the Nile's face is covered and the River Plate's hand is raised to shield its eyes because the sources of both rivers were unknown.

The damage to Bernini's fountain comes after a series

of assaults on priceless Italian sculptures and works of art of world importance, including an attack by a deranged Hungarian who believed he was Jesus Christ on Michelangelo's Pietà in St Peter's Basilica in 1972.

## Australia used to 'dump' ex-Nazi

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

JEWISH groups fiercely condemned the Australian Government yesterday for allowing Konrad Kales, an alleged Nazi war criminal, back into the country. They claimed Australia was being turned into a "dumping ground" for war criminals.

Mr Kales, 83, who became a citizen of Australia after the war, arrived there a free man yesterday having been deported from Canada. An immigration adjudicator had ruled that he had helped to run a slave labour camp in Nazi-occupied Latvia during the Second World War in which prisoners were starved, tortured and murdered.

He was deported from America to Australia three years ago but fled to Canada after the release of secret files on his alleged wartime activities.

Diane Shetman, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, yesterday called for a change in Australian deportation laws, saying:

"We are really aghast that a person who is not fit for the US or Canada can come back to Australia with impunity. If the Government does not open the case it would make Australia, in the view of the world, as a dumping ground for war criminals. The fault is with our laws."

Mark Liebler, a spokesman for the Australian Jewish Affairs Council added: "He's been thrown out of the US; he's been thrown out of Canada and it's quite clear that he ought to be deported from Australia."

Mr Kales has always denied the allegations, maintaining that he was a university student during the war.

□ Bonn: The German Government and Jewish community representatives agreed yesterday to set up a special commission which has three months to examine how to deal with reparations claims from east European Holocaust victims. (Reuters)

## 'Blood' defaces statue

FROM RICHARD CHERRON IN OTTAWA

A CONTROVERSIAL statue in Quebec City of General Charles de Gaulle, the late French leader, has been defaced in red paint. The damage, discovered on Tuesday morning, cost about £300 to repair.

Two notes in French were left by the statue. One referred to the 1942 Second World War battle in which more than 900 French-speaking Canadians died, saying: "Canadian blood at Dieppe."

The statue, unveiled less than a month ago by the separatist government in Quebec province, has attracted repeated attacks from federalists.

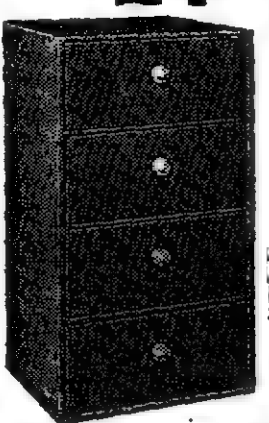
De Gaulle, who died in 1970, led the French resistance from England during the war and in 1958 became President of France's Fifth Republic. During Canada's centennial he shouted "Vive le Quebec libre" from a Montreal city hall balcony.

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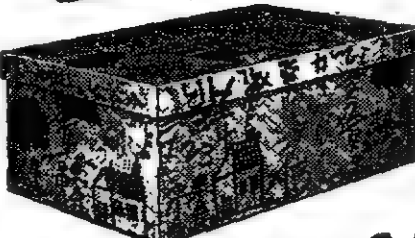
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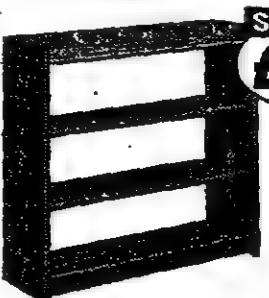
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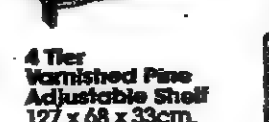
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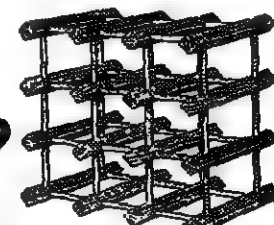
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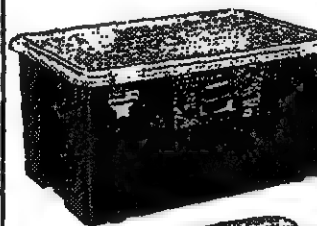
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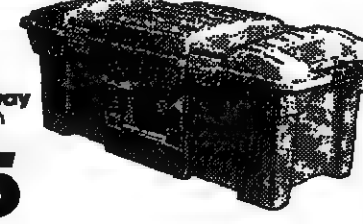
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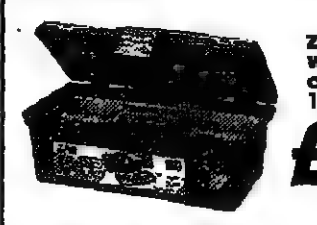
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# Libel case 'used for Singapore political attack'

FROM CHRIS JOHNSON IN SINGAPORE

BEN JEYARETNAM, the veteran opposition leader, yesterday accused Singapore's leaders of trying to drive him out of parliament by pursuing several libel cases against him.

Mr Jeyaretnam, 71, agreed that he told an election rally that a Workers' Party (WP) colleague had filed police reports against Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, and other members of the ruling People's Action Party (PAP). But he told the High Court, under questioning from his barrister George Carman, QC, that he had no detailed knowledge of what was in the reports, which accused Mr Goh, Lee Kuan Yew, the former Prime Minister, and nine other PAP leaders of criminal conspiracy and lying.

The 11 are suing Mr Jeyaretnam, saying his announcement of the police reports amounted to defamation by innuendo because everyone knew what the reports would say after a widely publicised war of words.

The trial, planned to last 12 days, is being monitored by the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists and by Amnesty International, which says it is worried Singapore may be using the courts

to suppress opposition. Mr Goh denied on Tuesday that the defamation actions were intended to bankrupt Mr Jeyaretnam and thus bar him from parliament. The actions stemmed from December's general election campaign which resulted in the PAP winning 81 of parliament's 83 seats.

In the campaign, the PAP

**"I announced that Tang had just placed before me reports he made to the police. That is all"**

focused all its heavy weaponry on Tang Liang Hong, a WP candidate, accusing him of being an "anti-Christian, Chinese chauvinist" who endangered racial harmony in mainly ethnic Chinese Singapore, which has large Malay and Indian minorities.

Mr Tang filed police reports accusing PAP leaders of lying and criminal conspiracy and Mr Jeyaretnam announced that move at the last rally before voting on January 2.

Mr Goh and his colleagues sued Mr Tang, who fled abroad saying his life had been threatened. He did not return to defend himself and the PAP leaders were awarded a record \$8.08 million (£3.5 million) in damages.

They also sued Mr Jeyaretnam, who is an MP by virtue of a constitutional provision requiring at least three opposition members.

"The case against Tang and me is purely political," Mr Jeyaretnam told Tom Shields, QC, Mr Goh's barrister.

"What I announced was that Tang Liang Hong had just placed before me reports that he had made to the police. That is all. I doubt very much that the ordinary layman in Singapore would understand from that, that he [Mr Tang] is reporting them for criminal conspiracy and defamation," Mr Jeyaretnam added.

Mr Shields suggested that Mr Jeyaretnam knew "full well the inference was that they were lying". The opposition politician replied: "I really didn't think about it."

He added that Mr Tang had simply placed copies of the police reports on the rally podium and asked him to announce that they had been made. (Reuters)



**AHMED SHAH MASOOD**, the Tajik leader of the Northern Alliance opposed to the fundamentalist Taliban militia, sharing a private moment with his eight-year-old son Ahmed yesterday. His senior aides have described his "unshakeable conviction" that he will take the city of Kabul (Michael Dynes writes).

Even in May when the Taliban zealots broke through the Salang highway

## Tajik leader 'unshakeably convinced' he will take Kabul

to enter the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif and all seemed lost. General Masood was preparing to take his battle to the hills of his native Panjshir valley.

Dr Abdulla, General

Masood's personal spokesman, said. "He has an unshakeable conviction in his cause. It is because of him Afghanistan is still here as an independent country."

General Masood, 44, often

returns to his home in the Panjshir Valley to be with his wife, son and four daughters. He has seen his country torn to shreds as a result of 18 years of war provoked by the Soviet invasion in 1979, and

bitter in-fighting between the various Mujahidin factions between 1992 and 1994, and now an invasion by religious fundamentalists.

The general's senior military aides yesterday downplayed the decision to delay the final offensive against Kabul until next month. Despite growing pressure, General Masood will not be pushed into any precipitate military action.

## Answering back can cost

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN SINGAPORE

"NOBODY fishes in the local lakes any more because now even the fish don't open their mouths," the driver said on the way to the High Court in Singapore. He was describing the atmosphere as Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, faced a grilling from George Carman, QC, in the extraordinary libel case against the leader of the Opposition.

At the centre of the case is the Workers' Party leader, J.B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam, who is being prosecuted for the innu-

endo of waving a police report in front of an election meeting and saying that Mr Goh had been reported to the police.

The report filed by a political candidate, Tang Liang Hong, was an answer to mudslinging by the Prime Minister, who had accused him of being a Chinese chauvinist and anti-Christian and therefore likely to disrupt Singapore's racial balance, even though Mr Tang has studied Indian dancing and his daughter is a Christian.

But under Singapore's "meritocracy", to answer back the head of government can be

a costly experience. Mr Goh has already been awarded \$5600,000 (£260,800) in an earlier libel action against Mr Tang. Eleven other government politicians shared the rest of an \$8 million award between them.

Singapore boasts the highest standard of living in the region. There are jobs to go round. The state is sparkling clean. The quality of life, however, is a different matter. A poll published in Singapore last week indicated that at least 37 per cent of adults had contemplated or were contemplating emigrating.

## Woman in line for top China job

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINA may appoint a woman as Foreign Minister in a looming leadership shuffle that will give President Jiang Zemin his toughest problem: finding a "meaningful" job for Li Peng, the country's unpopular Prime Minister.

The prospect of the witty, outgoing and acerbic Mrs Wu Yi, 58, taking the senior foreign position is the most intriguing possibility that could emerge from the leadership reshuffle.

The changes will take place at next month's party congress. Mrs Wu, now Foreign Trade Minister, is tipped to succeed Qian Qichen, 69, the Foreign Minister, who is retiring. She is also likely to gain a seat on the powerful party Politburo. She would be a fitting match for Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. Ms Albright is of a similar age to the small, plump-but bustling Mrs Wu.

As the fifteenth congress draws near, Beijing citizens are speculating about the future of the Prime Minister

and about the leaders who will take China into the next century. Mr Li must retire from the premiership next March after two five-year terms.

"Li wants a job with power and it is difficult to find him one without displacing another leader or even whittling at Jiang's own power base," a foreign diplomat said. A complicating factor for Mr Jiang, 71 — he is party chief, President and top army leader — is that he has yet to consolidate his own role as Deng Xiaoping's successor.

Diplomats say it is a "virtu-

al certainty" that Zhu Rongji, 69, the Deputy Prime Minister who is China's "economic czar", will replace Mr Li next March.

Mr Li, 68, remains deeply unpopular because he signed the martial law order that sent the People's Liberation Army into Tiananmen Square in June 1989 to suppress pro-democracy demonstrations.

He may take over from Qiao Guibao, 72, as chairman of the National People's Congress, but the former security chief is determined to hang on for another term.



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Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	4.80%	5.00%	5.75%	6.00%	6.25% <sup>2</sup>
Alliance & Leicester Prime 90 Share (90 Day)	4.50% <sup>3</sup>	5.20%	5.90%	5.95%	6.00%	6.25%

All rates are gross\*, based on annual payment of interest and correct at 11th August 1997. Source: Moneyfacts.  
<sup>1</sup>Rate effective from £500. <sup>2</sup>From £200,000 rate is 6.75%. <sup>3</sup>Rate effective from £1,000.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

The Sunday Times Magazine

**THROUGH THICK AND THIN**

Pessimists see this century as one of lost empire and national decline. But that is unfair. Britain has come through world wars and austerity with its energy, courage and invention intact

A SPECIAL REPORT IN THE SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE, THIS WEEKEND

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



# THE TIMES

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of the Post Office  
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BUSINESS EDITOR: Patricia Wheatcroft

THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

### Shell in talks to acquire Gulf outlets

By Eric Roberts

THE restructuring of the petrol market was set to continue last night when Shell UK confirmed it was in negotiations to buy the retail operations of Gulf UK, which are owned by Chevron.

Shell is also negotiating to buy Gulf's commercial fuels and lubricants business but not its refinery at Milford Haven nor the head office in Cheltenham. Shorn of its retail arm, Gulf is expected to close the refinery.

Oil experts said the deal would give Shell nearly as much market share as Esso and put it well ahead of BP, which took control of Mobil's retailing business in the UK and in continental Europe last year.

Gulf has 450 retail sites, which would give the combined network 2,250 outlets. The Gulf stations would be rebranded as Shell and some weaker outlets would be shed, Shell said.

It added that the Gulf acquisition, which it hopes to complete by the end of the year, would significantly increase its market share. The company said that many of the Gulf sites were in better locations than the Shell outlets. The 16 Gulf stations bought by Shell in 1995 are among the company's best performers, it said.

The value of the 450 Gulf stations is difficult to estimate because their sales are not known. The price war, however, has eroded margins and depressed values. Esso, which introduced the highly successful Price Watch campaign, is considered the most aggressive petrol retailer. The price war has resulted in the closure of about 10 per cent of stations in the past year or so.

The Shell-Gulf talks come as little surprise. Earlier this year, Chevron put its Gulf stations on the auction block after a proposed three-way merger with the refining and retail operations of Elf UK and Murco failed.

James Frost, chairman and chief executive of Seve Group (formerly the Frost Group), the largest independent petrol retailer, said the Shell-Gulf move would give the big three about 60 per cent of the retail market. Seve, with about 600 stations, has about 25 per cent.

Mr Frost welcomed the Shell-Gulf talks. He said: "The merger would mean that the remaining refiners will have a greater need to sell their products among a smaller number of retailers. We can only benefit from this development."

Shell's acquisition of the Gulf retail sites would require government approval.

## Treasury plays down inflationary impact of sales Spending spree fuels fears of rate increases

By George Sivell and Robert Miller

RETAIL sales surged again in July, according to government figures out yesterday, although the rate of growth has slowed down since the boom month of June.

The July figures, swollen by spending windfall gains from mutual flotations, set a number of post-Eighties records and had analysts talking of possible interest rate rises. However, both the Treasury and Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, played down the inflationary impact of the figures.

In July the volume of retail sales rose 0.3 per cent from June, although the rise from May to June has been revised up from 0.6 per cent to 0.8 per cent. Government economists, however, regard the quarterly figures as a more reliable indicator of consumer trends.

In the three months from May to July retail sales rose 2.1 per cent on the previous quarter, the highest rise since October 1987's 2.2 per cent. The figures were 5.8 per cent up on the same quarter a year ago, the highest rise since September 1989's 6.1 per cent.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said that it wanted to wait until the August figures before deciding whether the growth inspired by spending of windfall gains from building society and insurance mutual flotations had begun to slow down.

However, ONS statisticians estimate that an extra £200 million was spent on household goods and carpets in June and that an extra £100 million was spent in July. Stripping the combined £300 million out of the quarterly figures, the growth falls from a record-breaking 2.1 per cent to a more ordinary 1.4 per cent.

This calculation should help to reduce any upward pressure that emerges on interest rates, even though the Bank of England has effectively capped interest rates at 7 per cent for the time being.

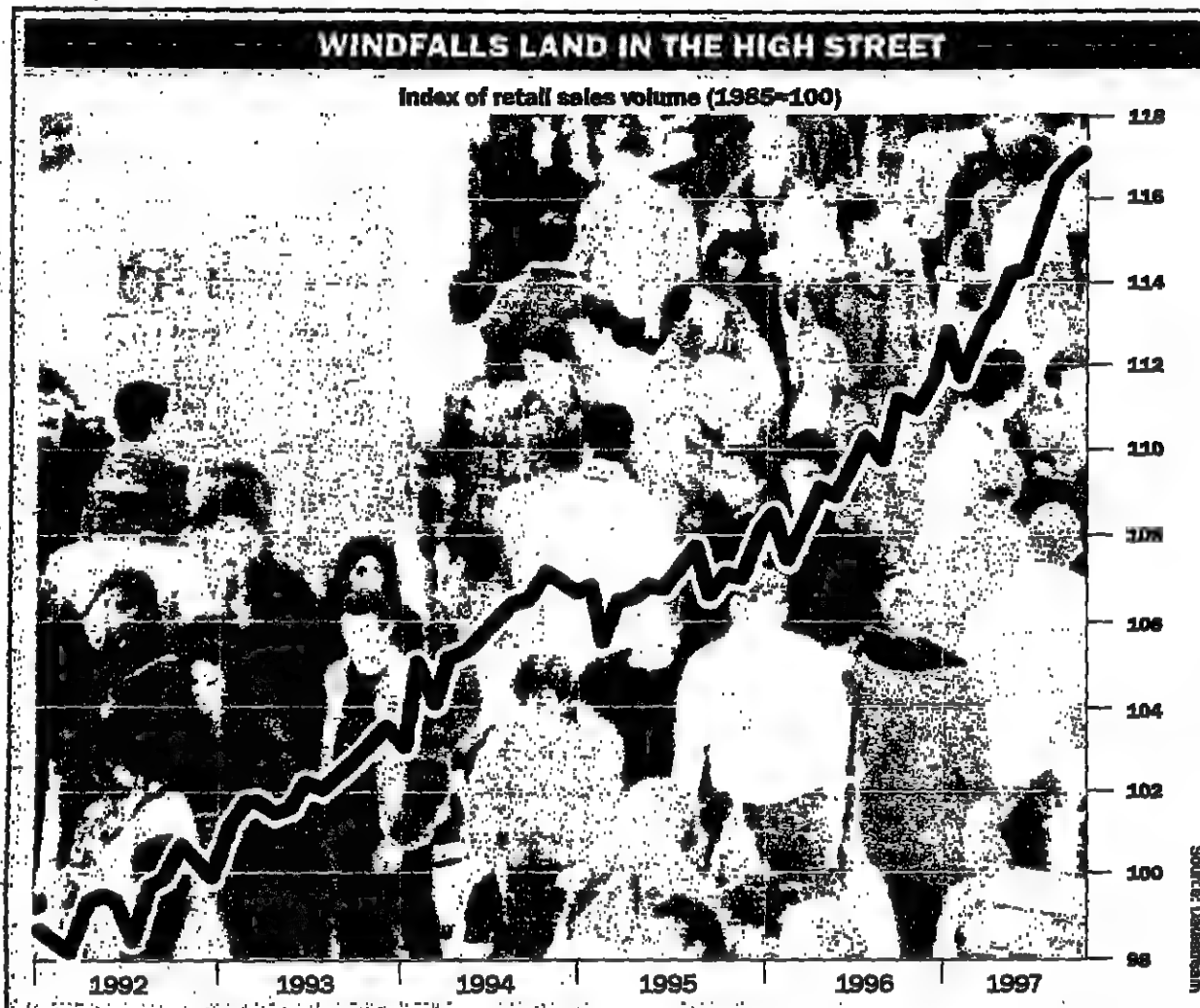
Mr Robinson said: "We know that there's a lot of windfall money being paid out... so we budgeted for this, we expected it and the market also was expecting it, so I think, really, it's a matter of looking at the whole year and then I think we are still on track."

Separate figures yesterday showed that consumer lending by British banks fell in July by just under £100 million. The British Bankers Association said that consumer credit rose £407 million in July, compared with £514 million in June and a six-monthly average of £479 million. Of the total amount of credit extended to consumers £173 million was attributable to plastic cards.

Figures from the Building Societies Association showed a record monthly inflow of cash both from carporters and genuine savers. The remaining mutual societies attracted £1.858 billion in July, compared with £1.844 billion in June.

Of more concern was the rise in the broad money supply, M4, of 0.8 per cent on the month and 1.8 per cent on the year. Analysts believe this figure represents a threat to the current low inflation environment and note that the Bank of England has moved the pace of M4 growth much higher up its agenda.

Commentary, page 25



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Commentary, page 25

### Power bill cuts scaled back

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

A THREATENED rebellion by electricity suppliers has forced the regulator to scale down planned price cuts.

Professor Stephen Littlechild had pressed for pricing caps delivering £30 cuts in bills over two years. However, he settled for proposals that will cut the average bill by between £15 and £25, depending on regional variations.

The alternative would have been to refer electricity companies objecting to the price cuts to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. This would have meant that the cuts could not have been implemented for half the industry at a time when Professor Littlechild was trying to introduce competition.

Professor Littlechild denied bowing to political pressure to stop a mass referral to the MMC or heading protests over effects of the windfall tax. He said that he did not believe that the companies would now seek a referral. "I don't see any justifiable basis for any company going to the MMC," he said. "If it did, we've got a strong case to make, but I hope it won't come to that."

Consumer groups fear that the regulator has weakened under industry pressure. Sharon Dee, of the Consumers' Association, said: "Lower prices today have been sacrificed for competition tomorrow."

Although softer than past proposals, the regulator's calculations are bad news for the coal industry and RJB Mining. His assumptions are that coal prices will fall to world prices when current contracts with generators end in March. He has rejected a plan by RJB to extend current contracts as competition is phased in. His move leaves RJB exposed to tough bargaining by generators. RJB said it was still confident of effective negotiations.

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4958.4	(+44.2)
Yield	3.33%	
FTSE All share	2224.91	(+17.08)
Nikkei	19252.23	(+291.23)
New York	7935.78	(+17.55)
Dow Jones	9775.00	(+50.00)
S&P Composite	831.01	(+5.00)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	97.75%	(97.75%)
Yield	6.55%	(6.51%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7.75%	(7.75%)
3-month Gilt	11.0%	(11.0%)

STERLING

New York	1.5800*	(1.5800)
London	1.5800*	(1.5800)
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### News Corp reveals share buyback

By George Sivell

THE News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, yesterday announced plans to buy back up to \$1.3 billion (£600 million) of its ordinary shares after reporting an 8.5 per cent rise in operating profits to \$1.47 billion (£677 million) in the year to June 30. Net profits fell to \$570 million from \$612 billion after exceptional charges, largely related to the restructuring of HarperCollins.

The company said that it has cash in excess of its immediate needs and would start a buyback after gaining regulatory approval.

Bechtel emerged as the strongest of News Corp's operations, with pre-tax profits rising from \$351 million to \$468 million. Lower paper prices and a 15 per cent rise in circulation of *The Times* were the driving forces behind the rise.

The restructuring of HarperCollins took up the bulk of an exceptional charge of \$575 million. The book publishing arm reported sharply lower earnings because of very difficult trading conditions.

The company said that profits from its 40 per cent stake in BSkyB rose 22 per cent to £127 million.







# Kept in the dark over Anite



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Inside the Stock Exchange tower, teams of clever people labour on investigations. One can only wonder why, for they appear to find pitifully little that is incriminating and, even when they do turn up something nasty, the Exchange is loath to do anything about it.

This week, at the end of not one but two investigations into its affairs, a wet lettuce leaf was wafted gently in the direction of Anite. Such a reaction is hardly likely to deter others from doing what the Exchange discovered this company had done, namely to have misled the stock market and, subsequently, compounded that offence by misleading a Stock Exchange inquiry.

There is to be no public censure of the company and the directors who were involved are free to continue providing their services to other companies. Roger Holland, for instance, now sits on the board of buses to guns conglomerate, Tomkins.

Investors should feel less than comfortable with the way they are kept in the dark.

Part of the problem lies with the inherent weakness to the Exchange's powers to punish, part with its preference for its culture of secrecy.

Public censure is a rarely used sanction — last deployed in June last year, when Clondalkin, the Irish packaging group, was reprimanded for a deficient and unapproved acquisition circular. More often, investigations con-

clude with private censures that leave no one any the wiser except the offending companies, their directors and advisers. With the Exchange tongue-tied because of the Financial Services Act, the significance of past misdemeanours is easily denied or played down, as Anite has so capably demonstrated.

As those who have been paying attention may recall, *The Times* believes the company, when it was still called Cray Electronics, seriously misled the stock market about the mounting losses within its data communications business. The Exchange had already carried out one investigation when fresh documents came to light, showing that those at the highest levels of the company had extensive knowledge of the problems months before the April 1995 profits warning, the start of a downward spiral which has since wiped out almost £300 million of shareholders' investments.

Prompted by the new evidence, the Exchange decided to take a second look, and found fresh fault with Anite — not least, that the company had withheld important information from the earlier inquiry. However, you

have only got our word for that. All Anite told its shareholders this week was that "The Stock Exchange has drawn certain matters to the company's attention." Investors can be forgiven for shrugging: so what?

But while the Stock Exchange feels it is unable to censure the directors who were involved because they are no longer with the company, a change of address would not normally shift culpability.

**Getting the measure of the boom**

Question: When is a boom not a boom? Answer: When the Government does not wish to see interest rates rise.

So the official line on yesterday's retail sales figures is that, despite showing the highest rate of growth since the heady days of the eighties spending

spree, this does not really count as a boom. What we have here is just consumers parting with some of their building society windfalls, but remaining careful about how they use their cash.

This analysis may be fairly accurate. I suspect that it is. The fact is that we do not know and the gratifying sight of rival economists producing very different instant reactions to the figures makes that perfectly clear.

The retail sales figures are, anyhow, prone to regular retrospective readjustments, so the numbers that were reeled off yesterday should be handled carefully by the Bank of England's monetary policy committee. The Chancellor's hand-picked team of interest rate adjusters has already indicated that it will take a breather and allow the results of its recent endeavours to register before deciding whether another turn of the base rate screw is required.

What the MPC needs to establish was what the Office of National Statistics was yesterday trying to estimate: can the uplift in consumer spending be accounted for simply by windfalls or do people feel they can spend more of their earned income, encouraged by a growing feeling of job security which is beginning to show up in opinion polls. In either case, whether or not the politicians would prefer to avoid the term, the high street is clearly enjoying a boom. The question is whether it is to be a short-lived, but enjoyable, interlude or something more sustaining for the shops and their shareholders alike.

Anecdotal evidence from retailers is that there is not a change in the national spending psyche, and that the continuing price consciousness of customers will ensure that inflation does not let rip. They argue that the leap in clothing sales last month owes more to the vagaries of the weather than economics and that

the upsurge in household sales is a reflection of windfall spending.

The retailers are, of course, talking their own book in saying, when in earshot of the Bank, that this is a short-term spree that does not need quelling with another interest rate hike. The fact that most are whispering the same tale to analysts indicates that they believe it to be true.

**BAT ready to drive a hard bargain**

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, might have guessed he would encounter a few difficulties in his efforts to stop tobacco companies using sporting events to promote the evil weed. His ill-conceived tussle with the chaps at Camelot will hardly have prepared him for taking on the force of the international heavyweights.

They were not likely to simply accept a ban on sponsorship and now it seems that BAT is determined to buy itself a Formula One team to race around the grand prix tracks in the interests of encouraging people to smoke. Mr Smith may ban BAT from plastering the names of its cigarette brands around the

track or even plastering them on the sides of cars, but if the team races under the Lucky Strike label, what is the poor commentator to do?

People at BAT know a bit about advertising and sponsorship and the likelihood is that they have thought this issue through rather more than the unfortunate Mr Smith.

If he curtails their promotional opportunities in one direction, they will seek others, and investing £250 million on buying a top-flight racing team may look like a bargain given the international coverage that grand prix racing now collects. In fact, it is BAT's sales drive in the Third World that is likely to be the biggest beneficiary of its arrival behind the Formula One wheel.

But putting the sanctimonious Mr Smith on the spot will be a delightful bonus, to be savoured over a relaxing smoke.

**Corporate coolness**

SOME companies still fail to be cowed by the corporate governors. Wintrust Securities, a tiddler in the banking sector, boasts a refreshing dearth of remuneration and audit committees, perhaps because it has not a single non-executive director to sit upon them. This does not deter such proper investors as Prudential and M&G from holding chunks of the stock. Perhaps they like the company's profit record rather than its pronouncements.

## Rentokil wrings bigger profits from BET takeover

By PAUL DURMAN

RENTOKIL Initial, the cleaning and pest control group, said yesterday its latest results showed how it could wring bigger profits from the businesses acquired in last year's £2.2 billion takeover of BET.

The group's half-year pre-tax profits of £193.9 million were a 44.2 per cent improvement on the previous period, which included only two months from Initial and the other BET businesses. This enabled Rentokil Initial again to hit its target of 20 per cent earnings growth, despite profits being cut by £14.3 million by the strength of sterling. Earnings per share rose 20.3 per cent to 4.74p.

Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive, pointed to the per-

formance of the personnel services division, which largely consists of BET's recruitment agencies, for "what Rentokil's management can do to BET's businesses".

Turnover in personnel services grew by 177 per cent to £161.3 million, but profits grew much faster, by 432 per cent to £11.7 million. Sir Clive said this had been achieved by concentrating on more profitable sectors and regions. He said there were good opportunities for further margin improvements.

Sir Clive said the group had now put in place the management team for its enlarged business and had not been distracted by the integration problems that damaged the

last set of results. Without the impact from the strong pound, Rentokil Initial would have achieved earnings growth of 28.4 per cent.

The results were well received in the City, and the group's shares rose 3p to 217.5p.

Sir Clive said he expected about 30,000 of the group's 80,000 UK employees to be directly or indirectly affected by the Government's planned minimum wage legislation. He expects to be able to pass most extra costs to customers.

Sir Clive again set out his 20 per cent target, pointing to the group's scope to continue its record by expanding expansion in continental Europe and South-East Asia. He said: "In theory we have the opportunity to grow by that amount for 50 years. It depends on competition, innovation and economic cycles. It (the target) is as difficult now as it was 15 years ago, ten years ago or five years ago. It was always hard."

Hygiene and cleaning is now the group's biggest business, increasing profits by 47 per cent to £81.4 million on sales of £416.5 million. The original pest control business, which suffered a fall in profits in the UK last year, reported a 7 per cent fall in profits to £33.1 million.

Sir Clive said the 20.3 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 0.89p a share, to be paid on November 6, indicated the board's continuing confidence.

Tempus, page 26



Roy Bishko, chairman, is expecting a good profits contribution from Knot Shops

## Tie Rack acquires US rival

TIE RACK, the retailer of ties, scarves and accessories, has acquired a smaller American rival, the Knot Shops, for \$2.5 million (£1.6 million) cash (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The Knot Shop has 21 stores in 12 states in the US, including two airport stores. They

will continue to trade under their own name. Tie Rack already has 39 stores in the US, part of its worldwide chain of 440 stores in 28 countries. No warehouse, central office or executive staff have been taken over. The Knot Shops will be serviced,

along with the group's other overseas operations, from Tie Rack's central distribution facility in West London.

Roy Bishko, chairman of Tie Rack, said: "I expect a good contribution to profits, without significantly adding to our overhead."

## City is surprised by pump-driven success at Weir

By MARK COURT

WEIR GROUP, the pumps, valves and engineering services company, far exceeded City expectations yesterday by revealing a 44 per cent increase in interim profits.

Viscount Weir, chairman, attacked the City for prompting undue fears about the impact of sterling on the company as he announced interim pre-tax profits of £27.8 million, compared with £19.2 million last time. He said: "The market ought to be more selective, more professional and make a deeper analysis of whether a business really is affected or not."

The pumps business was the star performer in the first six months, benefiting from a long-awaited upturn in demand and rising margins. Paul Compton, analyst at broker Merrill Lynch, said: "After five years of difficulty in the world pump market, the cycle has finally turned. Pump de-

mand will be very strong for the next three years."

Analysts, who are now upgrading their 1997 forecasts, also expect strong growth in the company's valves and engineering services businesses. Merrill Lynch expects full-year profits of £60 million, against £48.8 million last year.

Orders worth £345 million were won during the first six months, up by 21 per cent on the same period a year ago. These should help to lift turnover, which remained almost static at £318 million (£314 million), increasing pressure on the company to use its cash pile on acquisitions.

Although the company is likely to make two small purchases in the second half, in the UK and Brazil, Lord Weir said: "We are a bit put off by people asking prices that we think are rather high."

An interim dividend of 2.54p is due on 10 November.

## Wassall's US disposal fuels bid speculation

By ERIC REGULY

SPECULATION that Wassall, the bottle tops to glue conglomerate, is close to making an acquisition increased yesterday after the company sold its remaining 19.5 per cent stake in General Cable for \$143 million (£90 million).

Wassall sold the shares in the American cable manufacturer at \$31 each. This raises its total proceeds from various General Cable disposals, including the amount from the initial public offering, to \$763 million. Wassall said that the

money would be invested in existing businesses and "other suitable opportunities", but would not elaborate.

The General Cable sale increases Wassall's cash pile to more than £300 million. Analysts think that Wassall is likely to make acquisitions that would enlarge its existing businesses. The company holds stakes in McBride, the maker of household and personal care products, and TLG, the commercial and industrial lighting group.

## BG heading for pricing clash with watchdog

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A POTENTIAL legal clash between BG and Ofgas loomed yesterday after the company submitted its latest demands in the battle over Transco's pricing proposals. It is also keeping a close eye on another regulatory legal clash.

BG and Ofgas are at odds over a revenue cap proposed by Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, when she sets out licence amendments to implement a Monopolies and Mergers Commission recommendation on pricing curbs for BG's pipeline network.

BG has agreed to the MMC ruling, which could deliver bill cuts of £29 per year, but argues that a cap on all revenues is not what the MMC intended.

A spokeswoman said that BG was "watching developments with interest" in the case of Northern Ireland Electricity, which has gone for a judicial review after its regulator ignored some of an MMC recommendation on pricing plans.

The NIE clash is seen as a test case. BG said that it was working with Ofgas to implement the exact measures of the MMC but would "review that position if the need arose".

Ofgas is keen to put a cap on all revenues of Transco rather than a proportion, as was outlined in the MMC recommendation, because the amount of gas running through the pipes could vary and the company could gain more profits. A spokesman said that a decision on the revenue cap would be made by early next month.

Meanwhile, City speculation is increasing that BG could mount a £1 billion share buyback when its interim figures are published next month. Simon Flowers, gas analyst at NatWest Securities, said: "The company could return up to £1.25 billion to shareholders quite easily."

BG would not comment on the expectations although the company has held a series of meetings with analysts recently.



Spottiswoode: cap plan

## American group defends former Capital director

By DOMINIC WALSH

OGDEN CORPORATION, the US entertainment group, has spoken out in defence of Kenneth Thompson, the former Capital Corporation director accused of conspiring to harm the gaming group.

In a writ issued on Tuesday, Capital alleged that Mr Thompson had acted for Ogden in connection with a proposed deal to acquire London's Cromwell Mint casino at the same time that Capital was trying to acquire it.

But Chris Raphael, the British-born head of Ogden's casino division, said yesterday: "I don't know of a more proper person than Kenneth. He's old-

fashioned and completely straightforward in his approach and totally aware of his responsibilities."

Mr Raphael, who ran London's Claremont Club for Playboy in the Seventies, admitted Ogden had contacted Mr Thompson after it became aware he had resigned from Capital's board. But the discussions had never progressed beyond the informal stage.

He also confirmed that Ogden had approached Capital offering to take on the management of its two London clubs, Crockfords and the Colony Club. "We had read

about the management problems at Capital and we felt we could put together a pretty good team, but it never reached that stage."

The failure of Alan Hearn and Garry Nesbit, respectively chief executive and former chairman of Capital, to inform the board of Ogden's initial approach last November is just one of a series of allegations made against Capital's management. Those allegations prompted Capital to issue a writ claiming damages against Mr Thompson, Des Pereira, former acting head of finance, and Guy Hutchinson, former head of purchasing.

## Ronnie helps Vimto to a purple patch

By DOMINIC WALSH

PURPLE RONNIE, the cartoon character behind Vimto's £1 million summer advertising campaign, is putting a smile on the face of JN Nichols, the Manchester manufacturer of the fruit cordial.

The company, whose catchline is "Vimto puts a smile on your face", yesterday reported a 10.2 per cent rise

in pre-tax profits in the first half of 1997 to £4.2 million on turnover up from £35.4 million to £36.1 million.

Although volumes in June came in 20 per cent below budget due to the wet weather, the subsequent heatwave, aided by Purple Ronnie, should see the company achieve analysts' full-year profit forecasts of around £10.5 million.

John Nichols, managing director, whose grandfather invented Vimto in

1908, said around half the 200 million litres of the cordial sold annually were now consumed abroad, notably in Russia and the Middle East, where the company supplies concentrate to local franchisees. This had helped to offset a reduction in demand as a result of the strength of sterling.

He said the company, which also runs contract packaging and food supply businesses, was even seeing an

improvement in the South of England, which has traditionally proved a tough nut to crack. "Part of the success is the result of increased distribution, in particular through corner shops and garage forecourts," he said.

Earnings per share, helped by a share buyback programme, rose from 6.44p to 7.45p, while the interim dividend, payable on October 27, has been raised by 10.2 per cent to 2.7p.

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# Shares advance in dull trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	Low	High	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>							
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	1000
1001	1001	1001	1001	1001	0	0	1001
1002	1002	1002	1002	1002	0	0	1002
1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	0	0	1003
1004	1004	1004	1004	1004	0	0	1004
1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	0	0	1005
1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	0	0	1006
1007	1007	1007	1007	1007	0	0	1007
1008	1008	1008	1008	1008	0	0	1008
1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	0	0	1009
1010	1010	1010	1010	1010	0	0	1010
1011	1011	1011	1011	1011	0	0	1011
1012	1012	1012	1012	1012	0	0	1012
1013	1013	1013	1013	1013	0	0	1013
1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	0	0	1014
1015	1015	1015	1015	1015	0	0	1015
1016	1016	1016	1016	1016	0	0	1016
1017	1017	1017	1017	1017	0	0	1017
1018	1018	1018	1018	1018	0	0	1018
1019	1019	1019	1019	1019	0	0	1019
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1021	1021	1021	1021	1021	0	0	1021
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1030	1030	1030	1030	1030	0	0	1030
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1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	0	0	1038
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1168	1168	1168	1168	1168	0	0	1168
1169	1169	1169	1169	1169	0	0	1169
1170	1170	1170	1170	1170	0	0	1170



# Have you chosen your fantasy team?

GOALKEEPERS			
Code	Name	Team	Price
10101	Jim Leighton	Aberdeen	2.0
10201	David Seaman	Arsenal	5.0
10301	Mark Bosnich	Barnsley	1.0
10401	David Watson	Blackburn Rovers	3.5
10501	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
10601	Karl Brannen	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10701	Stewart Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
10801	Ed de Goey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
10901	Steve Opton	Blackburn Rovers	1.0
11001	Calvin Mitchell	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
11101	Kevin Miller	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
11201	Mark Bosnich	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
11301	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
11401	Neil Westwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
11501	Neil Westwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
11601	Chris Read	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
11701	Dragoje Lekovic	Blackburn Rovers	3.5
11801	Nigel Martin	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
11901	Kenny Miller	Blackburn Rovers	3.5
12001	David James	Blackburn Rovers	5.0
12101	Peter Schmeichel	Blackburn Rovers	1.0
12201	Scott Martin	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
12301	Shay Given	Blackburn Rovers	6.0
12401	Andy Goram	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
12501	Kevin Pressman	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
12601	Alan Mann	Blackburn Rovers	0.5
12701	Mark Taylor	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
12801	Jan Velter	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
12901	Ludvik Milosovic	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
13001	Nial Sullivan	Blackburn Rovers	2.5

FULL BACKS			
Code	Name	Team	Price
20201	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	3.0
20301	Nigel Winterburn	Arsenal	2.5
20401	Emmanuel Padi	Arsenal	3.0
20501	Steve Staunton	Arsenal	3.0
20601	Alan Wright	Arsenal	3.5
20701	Simon Grayson	Arsenal	2.0
20801	Ramond Nelson	Arsenal	2.0
20901	Nedky Edeon	Arsenal	0.5
21001	Neil Thompson	Arsenal	0.5
21101	Jeff Kenna	Arsenal	2.0
21201	Patrick Valley	Arsenal	2.0
21301	Neil Gerrard	Arsenal	2.0
21401	Richard Elliot	Arsenal	3.5
21501	Tommy Boyd	Arsenal	3.5
21601	Jackie Mackinnon	Arsenal	3.0
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29401	Jackie Mackinnon	Arsenal	3.0
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29701	Jackie Mackinnon	Arsenal	3.0
29801	Jackie Mackinnon	Arsenal	3.0
29901	Jackie Mackinnon	Arsenal	3.0
30001	Jackie Mackinnon	Arsenal	3.0

MIDFIELD PLAYERS			
Code	Name	Team	Price
30101	Brian O'Hall	Aberdeen	2.0
30201	Tony Adams	Arsenal	3.5
30301	Marlon King	Arsenal	2.0
30401	Gilles Grimandi	Arsenal	3.5
30501	Bernd Schuster	Arsenal	3.5
30601	Ugo Ehiogu	Arsenal	3.5
30701	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
30801	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
30901	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
31001	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
31101	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
31201	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
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38901	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
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39101	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
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39301	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
39401	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
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39801	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
39901	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5
40001	Arjen de Zeeuw	Arsenal	0.5

MIDFIELD PLAYERS			
Code	Name	Team	Price
40101	Alan Thompson	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40201	Scott Sellar	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40301	Per Frimham	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
40401	Michael Johnson	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
40501	James Puckett	Blackburn Rovers	4.5
40601	Andrew Thorne	Blackburn Rovers	1.0
40701	Phil O'Donnell	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
40801	Peter Grant	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40901	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
41001	Paul Blaxter	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
41101	Darrell White	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
41201	Roberto d'Almeida	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41301	Edinovic	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41401	Guillermo Poyet	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41501	Chris Fairclough	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
41601	Tommy Egan	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
41701	Scott Taylor	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
41801	Simon Rodgers	Blackburn Rovers	0.25
41901	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
42001	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
42101	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
42201	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
42301	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
42401	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
42501	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
42601	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
42701	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
42801	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
42901	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
43001	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
43101	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
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47201	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
47301	Alvaro Lozano	Blackburn Rovers	2.5



am?

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown concentrates like mad during David Lynch's *Lost Highway*, but still gets hopelessly lost

# Driving blind in the contraflow

Tired of Hollywood's summer silliness or films that make sense? Then welcome to *Lost Highway*. David Lynch's first feature in four years. He has not been idle: the brain that gave us *Blue Velvet* and *Twin Peaks* has now concocted an awesomely bizarre entertainment that would baffle even Albert Einstein. True and space are bent out of shape; one character merges into another. Paranoia runs rampant. This is a hallucinogenic tale of murder, blackmail, amnesia, female entrapment and night-time rides down glistening tarmac, all wrapped in an audacious soundtrack.

The film's universe is so extreme, so brazen in refusing rational explanations, that audiences are faced with two choices. You can either hitch yourself to Lynch's wagon, and bask in the perverse delights devised by the director and Barry Gifford (author of the novel *Wild at Heart*). Or you can stand outside, alienated from a film that talks a private language. Since Lynch's control and pacing falter sometimes, a third option emerges: you can feel intrigued, then frustrated, briefly mesmerised, then faintly fed up, then bored. This is the path I took.

A plot outline would mislead, for the lines connecting cause and effect are impossibly skewed. Bill Pullman begins as a jazz musician in a city sprawl resembling Los Angeles. After numerous strange occurrences he is arrested for the murder of his wife, Patricia Arquette. One day, guards find another man in his prison cell, a younger man (Balthazar Getty), who, once released, starts an affair with another woman played by Arquette, this time sporting bleached hair.

Are these pairs alter egos? Does the action take place inside or outside the characters' heads? And who is the Mystery Man, the ghostly, insidious, lipsticked clown who demonstrates, among other phenomena, how to be in two places at once?

Lynch supplies no answers. He is only precise in the way he crafts the material of his film, the sounds and images. Decor is spare, but resonant (back come those red drapes from *Twin Peaks*: *Fire Walk With Me*). Performances are deliberately low key: no Oscars will be won here. The sound design is bold and intricate, a scrupulously engineered mix of David Bowie, Lou Reed, Smashing Pumpkins, continuous chords and apocalyptic drones.

Given the deluge of workaday movies, Lynch's conceptual daring is as refreshing as always. But there is something so insular about *Lost Highway* that I came out gasping for even muggier air.

And so to Joely Richardson, riddling knots, keys and buttons in a search-and-rescue

**Lost Highway**  
Curzon West End, 18,  
134 mins  
David Lynch baffles us to bits

**Event Horizon**  
Empire, 18, 95 mins  
Hell is discovered in outer space

**Albino Alligator**  
Virgin Haymarket, 18,  
97 mins  
Kevin Spacey turns director

**Jump the Gun**  
Virgin Haymarket, 15,  
112 mins  
Les Blair explores modern Johannesburg

**Keys to Tulsa**  
Faza, 18, 113 mins  
One hip crime thriller: too many

**Plein Soleil**  
Curzon Phoenix, PG,  
118 mins  
Patricia Highsmith adapted by the French

space ship far into deep space in the year 2047. "I'm picking up trace life forms," she says, "but I can't get a lock on the location." There is a price to pay for securing a role in a science-fiction film, such as *Event Horizon*, wholly American in flavour although made by a British director at Pinewood. You have to declaim terrible dialogue. From time to time you must parade your physique in little more than a bra and pants. You get knocked around, pelted with debris, spatulated with human remains.

Joely's character, Stark, the ship's navigator, is not alone in her struggle. I could not find life forms, either. True, Sam Neill begins the film gazing at family photos — "I miss you," he croons to his wife — but once the ship speeds off on its mission to investigate a vessel missing, believed lost, for seven years in space, all human beings become subordinate to high-tech wizardry. Nobody is spared, not even Laurence Fishburne, the ship's seasoned captain, or Neill's ambiguous scientist, or Richardson in her scalding.

D evotees of sci-fi extravaganzas can be assured plenty of spectacle. Bodies and hardware are exploded, fragmented and smeared on walls. The renegade ship, the *Event Horizon*, comes styled with Gothic armour-plating and an ominous large ball surrounded by three rotating rings. This globe is crucial, we discover, this was the engine that allowed ship and crew to travel faster than light; disappear down an evil black hole, and return to spew out messages in Latin and personalised nightmares.

You could call the ship's destination hell. The characters do. The director Paul Anderson, he of *Shopping and*



Patricia Arquette in *Lost Highway*, David Lynch's "hallucinogenic tale of murder, blackmail, amnesia, female entrapment and night-time rides down glistening tarmac"

*Mortal Kombat*, even thought Ken Eisner's script reminded him of Dante's *Inferno*. But any benefit the film might enjoy from its supernatural and religious overtones is lost in the welter of bald dialogue, mundane plotting, thunderous music, ripped-out eyes and dripping gore.

Given sufficient money and equipment, it is easy to bombard the viewer with spectacle. The difficulties for movies these days lie in the low-tech arena. *Event Horizon* needs livelier direction and an interesting script, with characters that live and breathe.

In *Albino Alligator*, debutant director Kevin Spacey keeps the camera on the movie, weaving between faces on the wide screen as we join the characters trapped in Dino's Last Chance Bar, a Prohibition-era watering hole that houses a battle between burgling robbers, customers taken hostage and federal agents laying siege. We might very well be watching a play,

possibly *Key Largo* or *The Desperate Hours*.

Aside from Spacey's forceful handling, there is a notable cast to keep us absorbed. M. Emmet Walsh, the bar owner, soon lies dead, but there are still Matt Dillon, Faye Dunaway, Gary Sinise and others to ponder moral niceties, act flustered, foolish or brave, and explain the film's title. It refers to a play in billiards, a sacrificial move made by one player that blocks the progress of others.

The fancy title indicates the pretensions of the script, a first endeavour by Christian Fortson of the 1990s pop star Fabian. He is lucky to have Spacey and crew interpreting his work, otherwise this old wine in a new bottle might have been far less drinkable. Escaping from Dino's Last Chance Bar, we hop continents and reach post-apocalyptic Johannesburg in *Jump the Gun*. South Africa is not Les Blair's usual territory: the accomplished

maker of semi-improvised dramas, too often hidden in Mike Leigh's shadow, has rarely strayed from the London enclaves of the working and middle-classes. Perhaps his status as a foreign visitor contributes to the film's lack of focus; you never feel a clear point of view as Blair follows the fortunes of a white oil rigger (Lionel Newton) and

a woman fleeing man trouble (Baby Cele). The boisterous playing is infectious, but the elongated running time grows to be a nuisance.

The minutes also pass heavily in *Keys to Tulsa*, yet another small American film arrayed with more talent than the material deserves. Eric Stoltz, James Spader, Michael Rooker and old-timers Mary

Tyler Moore and James Coburn are among those who signed on for Harley Peyton's script, but so much potential gets smothered by Leslie Greiff's plain direction. Time, too, is not on the film's side; we have seen too many crime melodramas peppered with losers, wastrels and hip dialogue for this pale specimen to appeal.

Finally, we reach *Plein Soleil*, in which a young Alain Delon bares his chest and assumes the identity of the rich friend he does away with. René Clément's film, made in 1959, is not taut enough, but Delon's pretiness, the light, bright colours of Henri Deca's camerawork and the period flavouring all bring their own small pleasures.

## NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Sparkling Rossini rarity; two generations of Bachs

### OPERA

John Higgins

#### ROSSINI

*L'inganno felice* (Massis/Gimenez/Gilfry/Regazzo/Spagnoli/Concert des Tuileries/Minkowski) Erato 0630 17579-2 \*\*\* £15.49

ROSSINI'S fourth opera, *L'inganno felice* (*The Happy Deception*), is loosely described as a *farsa*. Rather it is a gentle melodrama about a noblewoman who, falsely accused of infidelity, is pushed out to sea in an empty boat. Years later all is happily resolved as husband and wife are reunited amid general forgiveness.

Marc Minkowski conducts his youngish cast with a beneficent smile, starting with the overture, the score's best known piece. Raul Gimenez, most expert of Rossini tenors, has a graceful entrance aria as the Duke, but then rather fades from sight. There are some dull patches of accompanied recitative unravelling the simplistic plot, but the last 30 minutes are pure joy. They start with a superb pantomime between one of the villains and Tarabotto, a nice

old miner who plucked the duchess from the ocean. Rodney Gilfry and Pietro Spagnoli play the bad guy and the good guy with relish. Best of all is Annick Massis, this summer's discovery in Glyndebourne's joyous *Le Comte Ory*, as the wronged duchess. Perhaps Glyndebourne should give *L'inganno* a whirl some day.

### ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

#### J.C. BACH

Berlin Harpsichord Concertos 2 Hanover Band/Halstead cpo 099 462-2 \*\*\* £14.99 NOT content with his flourishing dual career as horn player and conductor, Anthony Halstead has also been displaying his prowess at the keyboard in recent years. He is currently in the process of recording all the orchestral music of Johann Christian Bach, and here he takes the role of solo harpsichordist in

three more of the concertos, directing also from the keyboard. Bach's youngest son, born in 1735, was to be a considerable influence on Mozart. But his early style is still firmly rooted in the Baroque, as can be heard in the set of concertos dating from his Berlin years (1750-54). They are attractive works, full of character and ideas, not to mention virtuosic passage-work — especially in Presto finales — which Halstead throws off with aplomb. The *F Minor Concerto* has a particularly affecting slow movement, the nuances of which are captured expertly by both soloist and the dependable Hanover Band.

### RECITAL

Hilary Finch

#### BACH

*Six Cello Suites* Jaap ter Linden Harmonia Mundi HMU 907216.17 \*\*\* £28.99 THERE are as many character studies of Bach Suites as there are cellists to play them: a long catalogue reveals the huge heart of a Rostropovich, the volatility of a Minkowski, the gentle cultiva-

tion of a Kirshbaum, the rigour of a Schiff. And now there is this, a new period instrument performance by the gambist and Baroque cellist Jaap ter Linden, whose Bergonzi and Amati instruments draw Bach mellow and matured out of old oak casks.

The opening of the First Suite in G creates no mere gentle undulation, but reveals a search for every shifting wave pattern. And in Linden's playing the footfall of dance has already turned into the patterning of thought. He makes up in rubato what his playing lacks in vibrato and, with some heavy landings on double-stopping, it can at times sound over-strenuous.

But the longer you listen, the more Linden's intellectual and physical energy takes you over. Stay with it, and you cannot fail to be enticed by his Sarabande in the First Suite, the sense of levitation in the daring articulation of the Prelude of the Fifth, and the freefall of arpeggio figures in the Courante of the Third.

\* Worth hearing  
\*\* Worth considering  
\*\*\* Worth buying

## Close, but no cigar

### NEW ON VIDEO

#### 101 DALMATIANS

Buena Vista, U, 1996 GLENN CLOSE'S Cruella De Vil, looking stunning in angular black-and-white fashions and piercing her lines as though they were gourmet delicacies, knocks spots off the dogs in this live-action edition of the cartoon classic. In other words, the cartoon is better. You certainly miss the dogs' voices: denied their thoughts as they had their puppies kidnapped, we begin to stand outside the story. Available to rent.

#### FLIRTING WITH DISASTER

Buena Vista, PG, 1996 THE director of *Spanking the Monkey*, David O. Russell, is still obsessed with family matters. This second feature concerns a young man's cross-country search for his birth parents, accompanied by his wife, their baby, and an adoption agency bent on documenting the happy reunion. Surprises lurk at every turn, and the jokes tumble out with an ease indicating the cast's high spirits, improvisation skills, or both. Ben Stiller and Patricia Arquette play the questing couple; comedy veterans (Mary Tyler Moore, George Segal, Alan Alda and Lily Tomlin) fill out the cast. Available to rent.

#### MARS ATTACKS!

Warner, 12, 1996 THEY come in peace, or so they say. That's before the little green men reduce America's Congress to smoking skeletons. Tim Burton's film is no



Glenn Close, magnificent in monochrome, after the hair of the dog in the remake of the classic *101 Dalmatians*

ordinary spoof: big bucks, high technology, and galaxies of stars (Jack Nicholson, Glenn Close) have been lavished on the project. There is a savage tone that undercuts some fun: no 1950s aliens were ever as nasty as these invaders, and no 1950s movie ever burnt human beings with such gloating realism. A little more kindness and less blockbuster panache would have improved the experience, now yours to rent.

#### THE WEDDING PARTY

Allied Entertainment, U, 1993 ODDITY collectors may wish to acquire this juvenile, would-be comedy, made by Brian De Palma with college colleagues Cynthia Munroe and Wilford Leach. Bride, groom, friends and relatives gather and talk

before the big day, among them a chunky, crew-cutted Robert De Niro, cast as a friend of the groom. Jill Clayburgh, too, makes her screen debut.

#### NORMAL LIFE

*First Independent*, 18, 1995 THIS film by John McNaughton remorselessly follows the downward path of a rookie policeman (Luke Perry) and an unstable wife who loves astronomy and craves excitement. "Black holes are intense," Ashley Judd cries in a brave, unnerving performance. So is the film, which pushes us into our own black hole with two characters spinning out of control. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN



Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases

#### EVENT HORIZON

Sarah Crook, 18 A very gruesome and disturbing movie that borders on being evil. Tim Thornton, 21: A chilling and frightening film. Joely Richardson looks out of place, acting as if she is treading the boards at the Globe. Damian Samuels, 20: *Alien* meets *Hellraiser* meets *Logan's Run*. Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 19: Research tells us that violent films can cause violent behaviour. *Event Horizon* should inspire a few more psychopaths.

#### JUMP THE GUN

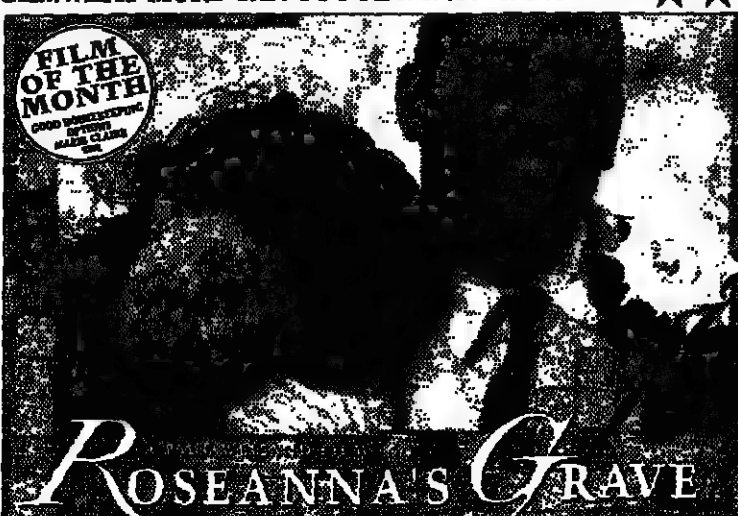
Sarah: Thought-provoking. Tim: Neither boring nor badly acted, but I wouldn't recommend a special trip to the cinema. Wait for the video. Damian: If you want to watch a film set in present-day South Africa, see *Dangerous Ground*, with Liz Hurley. It's far more entertaining. Leslie: Interesting portrait of a country and its people.

#### ALBINO ALLIGATORS

Sarah: A smart and sassy film. I loved it! Tim: A witty, well-acted gangster romp. Damian: Like the peculiarly named *Reservoir Dogs*, *Albino Alligators* is a real hit, even though there isn't a single white-skinned reptile in sight. Leslie: Kevin Spacey delivers a tense and intriguing movie.

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# Tentative American tourists

For its first visit to Britain in almost two decades, San Francisco Ballet has chosen Balanchine to showcase its talents. Tuesday's opening night programme (sponsored by Dunfermline Building Society) features two Balanchine works, both superlative examples of 20th-century ballet. But if they brought us the opportunity to rejoice yet again in choreography of the very highest order, they also revealed a company not quite comfortable with Balanchine's magnificence.

**Stravinsky Violin Concerto**, which the maestro made for New York City Ballet's Stravinsky Festival in 1972, is a testing abstract work which brilliantly subverts the precepts of classical construction. Hips are aggressively thrust in pointed rebuke to elegantly academic lines, feet are turned from decorative flourishes into assertively flexed starting points for cock-eyed movement. And yet the anarchy of such writing resides firmly within a highly sophisticated classical language.

Like the music, the dance is in four parts, with an opening and closing section for the ensemble and two central pas de deux which define the work's striking personality.

The first is a duet for two dancers (Muriel Mathre and Chidozie Nzerem) who are not concerned with connecting. They are aloof and testy, possibly angry, and certainly more anxious to express their own singularity than to celebrate the pleasure of partnership.

The second pas de deux (here danced by Kaitia Waldo and Benjamin Pierce) sets up a contrasting relationship. This couple are drawn to each other's warmth — he is tender and supportive, she is yielding and seductive.

Although they are at home with the Balanchine language, the company could not quite muster the attack or indeed the glamour of the choreographer's intention. In the end the choreography was fascinat-



DANCE

ing (because it is), but the dancing was not.

The glamour of *Symphony in C* is unmistakable. Made in 1947 for the Paris Opera Ballet, it is an utterly dazzling display of cultured dance inspired by Bizet's glorious score (played by a robust Royal Scottish National Orchestra, conducted by Enli de Coul). If there is one thing you need for *Symphony in C* it is overwhelming confidence. It is no good being tentative when Balanchine is out there going full blast, taking 19th-century academic



dance on the ride of its life.

Yes, the final movement did thrill on Tuesday night — with 40 dancers whizzing through such a spectacle of accelerated classicism, how could we fail to be excited? And yes, the company did reveal an impressive depth.

But where was the jubilation? Where was the sparkle?

In between these two choreographic marvels, Helgi Tomasson, San Francisco Ballet's artistic director, inserted his own *Sonata*. Danced to Rachmaninov's *Sonata* for Cello and Piano (with cellist David Kadarauch and pianist Roy Bogas on stage), Tomasson's trifle offers a mushy alternative to Balanchine's incisive brilliance.

*Sonata* is a melancholic mood piece whose long, flaccid phrases of dance hint at emotional turning points without ever bringing them to life.

Outstanding amid the blandness, though, was Joanna Bernman, a lushly lyrical dancer, whose distinctive presence provided a real focal point. She, at least, was on top form.

DEBRA CRAINE



Members of the San Francisco Ballet struggle to muster the necessary attack and glamour for Balanchine's brilliant but testing work, *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*

## Climbing under the lid

The Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires has let it be known that she would just as soon spend the whole rather than just half of the year on her farm, making it self-sufficient so that she will never have to go "out to work" again. The sense that she may be here today, gone tomorrow — that at any time her fresh, intensely musical and intensely individual playing might just vanish for ever from earshot — makes her performances all the more to be cherished.

That sense of living in a borrowed moment met its match in her concert at the Usher Hall in the Schubert she chose to play: the *Four Impromptus* D999 and the *Three Moments of Rapture* D790. The *Impromptus*, for all their structural skill and emotional depth, live most fully when they live up to their name, and in Pires's

fingers they certainly did. The single line plaint at the start of the C minor work hovered in the air as if improvised by a distant folk singer; the song of the G flat major seemed spun out of dreams; and the cascading figuration of the A flat major positively leapt above some of the lightest left-hand playing this piece can have known.

Pires, who strode on stage in homespun smock and heavy boots, also found the red blood pounding at the heart of these works. The second *Impromptu* pulsed with an inner anguish.

It is that sense of inner turmoil, of eavesdropped passion, which Pires excels in discovering: the more overt, physical struggle of Beetho-

### CONCERTS

ven's music does not come so instinctively to her. Nevertheless, the Beethoven sonatas which framed the Schubert — the E major Op 109 and the *Appassionata* — were uniquely compelling, with variations of hypnotic intensity created through Pires's constant imaginative reinvention of phrasing and timbre.

It was quite a day. In the morning, the Queen's Hall saw the assembling of five musicians, any one of whom would have packed out the house. Violinists Joshua Bell and Pamela Frank, viola player Tabeta Zimmermann, cellist

Steven Isserlis and pianist Stephen Hough joined forces for a highly charged performance of Elgar's Piano Quintet. Before that, Bell, Isserlis and Hough had played a remarkably broad, serene Mendelssohn Piano Trio No 1, prefaced by something of a discovery: Martin's *Three Madrigals* for violin and viola played by Frank and Zimmermann.

As night fell and the windows of Greyfriars Kirk began to illumine the nether end of town, even rarer sounds could be heard from the old Grey Covenanters' church. This was no less than a Latin Mass by the erstwhile "Canon of Scone", Robert Carver, born in 1484. Or was it? Having promised us

"magnificent Renaissance polyphony" by a Scottish contemporary of Tallis, Andrew Parrott and his Taverner Consort disclosed in their programme note that the mass *Canite Domino* was anonymous, possibly a reworking of another Mass, and that Carver's music, housed in the National Library of Scotland, was in a glorious muddle as regards sources, completions and chronology.

Be that as it may, the reconstruction we heard revealed a rich and strange fusion of late-medieval decorative style — ravishing writing for high soprano and devilish business for bass — and ecstatic High Renaissance counterpoint. Parrott's robust direction of his band of brightly coloured voices set this pivotal style into high relief.

HILARY FINCH

## Cockney rebel's greatest miss

If small is beautiful, Steven Berkoff really should pack in his solo tours de force immediately, because there's little beauty left in his world, and his poetry of the street simply doesn't ring true any more. The UK premiere of *Message* starts promisingly enough, with Berkoff — dragged up grotesquely to the nines like the panto dame he may yet end up being — in full pout as the backstreet maseuse performing extras for her clapped-out clientele.

What follows is a meticulous and cruel dissection of the English attitude to sex, via unmoded notions of domestic bliss and backstreet love which look something between archaic and extinct. For, while no one is denying that the sauna trade is booming, the sex, rather than being grubby and desperate, is presented as a nudge nudge, anachronism to be made light of, while Berkoff's depiction of working-class life — seen no doubt through bifocals by a Berkoff looking back on his own humble boyhood — is cheaply patronising.

Barry Phillips, Berkoff's foil.

is just as guilty of cheapening things, and neither seems to have moved on since their glory days, when chirpy Cockneys were a novelty.

The only truth comes via Berkoff's typically top-shelf gynaeological soliloquies, and it was fascinating to note that while the acolytes swallowed everything whole, the cutglass laughter that accompanied the domestic scenes was soon silenced by the fleshier bits. Anyone who thinks this is shocking should get out more.

Berkoff needs to learn that sex these days is far more complicated and relationships far more fractured than when he was a lad. Benny Hill did a long time ago.

And so to *Flux*, the musical boot up the backside Edinburgh has been waiting for for donkey's years. Having had the big boys from down south in already, Tuesday night was local heroes' night, or rather Glasgow heroes' night, as all three bands that noised up the bill had jumped the great East Coast-West Coast divide and made Edinburgh their own.

The Delgados' spiky boy/girl pop has come of age of late, and is now tight as a tick. The fact that Chemical Underground, their cottage industry record label, appears to be building the most interesting roster in Scotland has given the band both confidence and credibility points. Vocalist Alan Woodward's between-song banter is lifted straight from the Stephen Pastel school of stage deportment — while his vocal partner Emma Pollock seems uncharacteristically gigglesome — but they deliver a set that cuts through the Scottish Sonic Youth comparisons and should make them pop stars in their own right.

The mock Baroque flourishes of only occasionally audible flute and cello helped them to swoop and soar in the heat of the Jaffa Cake, where *Thirteen Gliding Principles* proved still to be their best song. Only just, mind.

Mogwai's bass-driven instrumental slabs of glory crashed through the night, with a driven guitar assault

that drags Can into pre-millennium frenzy, whisks it up with Joy Division and Bark Psychosis and serves liberally. Which is what won them so many Single of the Week awards — although here it was primarily new material on offer, with only *New Paths To Helicon* familiar to these ears.

The original core quartet has been joined by former Teenage Fanclub and Telstar Pony madman Brendan O'Hare, who has forsaken his drums to become a fully fledged axe hero. There's even a Spaceman 3 cover version, by the end of which your heart's pounding out of synch to a different beat and you think you are about to expire. Mogwai are the future. Right here. Right now. Know what I mean?

Meanwhile, Urusei Yatsura's Yankee-influenced riff-orama should make the crossover soon. They have already moved on from their initial cartoonified trappings. Don't anyone mention the words "Scotland" and "lo-fi" in the same breath any more.

NEIL COOPER

### FRINGE

AS THE host of observational humour sinks under the revelation that there is nothing left to observe, the salvation of comedy comes from some odd quarters. Comedy is the new cruelty, and *Chim Chim Zanzibar* (Pleasant) has a firm grip on the electric cattle prod. This cabaret is populated by black-clad sub-men in severe wigs, *Romans* in fluorescent fun fur, drunk women threatening to strip and the last man on earth, mixed in with aphorisms ("What was the greatest crime of the 20th century? It was Birmingham") and music from the Opera Device.

There is something infinitely pleasing about hearing a serious operatic soprano belting out lyrics so filthy that even Schmitt's ears would shrivel up. Although occasionally too clever for its own good, *Chim Chim Z* balances the supreme arrogance of the League Against Tedium with honest-to-God silliness and fart jokes. The audience is made to wear dunce's caps, disinfected with spray guns, humiliated, parodied and finally forced out of the auditorium by the spectacle of the entire cast dribbling on to the stage.

The show relies heavily on computer technology to keep the music booming and the slogans flashing up on screens, but at its core is a solid mix of sketches, jokes and songs. The multimedia side is integrated perfectly with the live action and, while it keeps moving at a rapid

## A funny business, cruelty

### COMEDY

pace, the show is proof that material does not need to be dumbed down to keep the audience crying with laughter.

More low-tech but clever also is *La Love 2* (Gilded Balloon), a two-person sketch show about sex and love. Janie Anderson and Gregg Fleet keep the dialogue minimal, but when it comes it is beautifully written and often poignant. "Many times, when I thought Sylvie had been looking into my eyes, she had just been looking."

While most contemporary comedy takes the situation and tries to universalise it, Anderson and Fleet take one basic scenario of boy meets girl and test it through hundreds of permutations. The mixture of characters is wonderful, in particular the woman who falls in love with a fireman and has to keep setting fire to her house so that he can come to rescue her.

What the show manages to capture are the moments of lost logic that love generates, both as it begins and as it ends. A woman who suspects her boyfriend of having an affair asks plaintively: "Why didn't he at least have the decency to empty the ash tray?" Another character admits: "All my best relationships have been with men that I didn't particularly care about, and all my worst have been with men I did."

Much of the humour lies in the accomplished performances, in particular Anderson's expressive face, and the perfectly judged bathos. Apart from a cracking soundtrack, which ranges from Radiohead to Mozart, and a slide projector, *La Love 2* uses no clever tricks, but manages nonetheless to be cruel, personal and funny.

Fleet also has a solo show (*Gilded Balloon*) which follows the fortunes of an old man in a tower block, mingled with memories from Fleet's real and surreal childhood. Sad and funny, it covers everything from collective LSD hallucinations to the boyhood discovery that "hurling yourself in the nude was the ultimate in humour".

The shortlist for this year's Perrier Award for Comedy is: The League of Gentlemen, Al Murray, Milton Jones, Johnny Vegas and Graham Norton. The winner will be announced next week.

HETTIE JUDAH

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● Full details of Passport to Europe appeared in Saturday's Weekend section. For a copy call 0171-431 3355 during office hours. For details of Leisure Direction's exclusive travel offers call 0181-324 4011.

We have five prizes for lucky readers to win a stay either at a Relais & Châteaux hotel or enjoy a gourmet *Le Lunch*. Our first winner, of Monday's competition, is: Mr I Samuel of Farnham, Surrey. (The answer was Costa Brava.) Tuesday's winner is: Mr R Burnstine of Manchester. (The answer was Lyon.)



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# Fighting his nature's opposition

**Roy Jenkins on the  
ambiguous career  
of a contradictory  
politician**

his style is in general a good enough vehicle for telling his story, it frequently erupts into wild infelicities in the choice of words. Some of them, such as "workerist" as an adjective in front of rhetoric, simply do not exist. Others, such as Cripps's attempts to "superglue" the Labour Party to its socialist pretensions are ugly without being illuminating. And a few more are inappropriate: "not a peach job" is hardly either necessary.

**STAFFORD CRIPPS**  
**The First Modern Chancellor**  
By Chris Bryant  
Hodder & Stoughton, £25  
ISBN 0 340 67892 5

or well-chosen as a description of the embassy to Moscow in 1940-41.

Also, although the core of his research has been thorough, inaccuracies of nomenclature and sometimes of more important facts betray, at the edges, a lack of instinctive familiarity with the period. G. D. H. Cole described himself as such, but was Douglas to his intimates and never "George Cole" to anybody. Mr Bryant falls several times into this hazard. Furthermore, Orwell and not Hemingway wrote *Homage to Catalonia*. Lytton Strachey was certainly not a former Labour MP, and Douglas Jay was never Minister of Pensions.

Nevertheless, Bryant is very skilled or lucky at confining the weaknesses of his book to such inessential. He has a good feel

for the curious ambiguity of Cripps's career. This had no natural progression. Although he came of a political family, Cripps took no part in politics until he was over 40. The first Labour Government and the General Strike both left him undisturbed in his legal practice, which was as specialised as it was successful, concentrated upon complicated commercial actions. Church affairs were almost his only diversion during this period.

Then he came into the Labour Party with a golden spoon in his mouth. He was imposed upon a Bristol constituency in order that he might immediately take his place on the second MacDonald Government's front bench as Solicitor-General. After a brief post-1931 period in a triumvirate of leadership of the almost annihilated parliamentary leadership he plunged further and further to the left. The content of his statements, still delivered in a precise legal voice, became increasingly shrill. The clerk of the Labour establishment became a self-appointed tribune of the minority. In 1939 he was expelled from the Labour Party, and remained an isolated but at times extremely powerful voice until 1945. As ambassador to Moscow he fortuitously became the symbol of successful Russian resistance to Hitler. There was a short period, in 1942, when it almost seemed as though he might replace Churchill. Then his star faded, and he served for the rest of the war as an effective but essentially peripheral departmental minister.

By the beginning of the Attlee Government he was back in communion with official Labour and rose inexorably over the next two years to be the dominating economic minister. As an austere but commanding Chancellor he became the embodiment of responsible government and self-disciplined patriotism. The connection between this dedicated servant of the State and the unanchored agitator of the Thirties became difficult to recall. It was almost as though the Russians, during his embassy,



The signing of the Burma Treaty, 1947: Cripps, Thakin Nu, Attlee and Bevin

had performed some motiveless feat of substitution.

Cripps's authority again became great, but longer-lasting than in 1942. Supporting his economic leadership was the minor role which he had played in negotiating Indian independence. Seven years Attlee's junior, it seemed plausible in 1948 and 1949 that he might be his successor. Maybe this would not have occurred in any event. He had many of the qualities of leadership, but they were balanced by a lack of common sense and an inability to see problems in perspective. He was at once clever and naive, penetrating and unsuitable.

This mixture of qualities may have made him best commanding a vital segment of the front and not the overall operation, a role he brilliantly fulfilled for a relatively short period. But ill-health drove him into retirement five years before Attlee, who survived him by 14 years: his possible succession was never put to the test. But he remains one of the outstanding architects of postwar Britain. Bryant understands very well the strengths and weaknesses of this inspirational, unusual but ill-rounded man.

Roy Jenkins's *Gladstone* is published in paperback by Papermac, priced £10.

Roy Porter is swamped by the details of a scientist's life

## When the value of facts is only relative

Albert Einstein became a myth in his own lifetime — the theorist of relativity, the Nobel laureate, the greatest physicist of the 20th century, the tireless pacifist. Absent-minded, unworldly, with that memorable mane of white hair, that droopy moustache, that twinkle in his eye, he became not just the world's idea of scientific genius but the acceptable face of science in the age of the Bomb. But what was the life behind the legend? Actualities were more intriguing than image, as the German physicist and writer Albrecht Fölsing documents in exhausting detail.

Contrary to myth, Einstein was not a failure at school. But there was something self-generated about the intense passion for physics which he carried from childhood to the grave. The solitary voyaging of the pioneer — at first forced upon him, later self-created — sustained his sense of wonder at nature and preserved his childlike confidence in his own prodigious powers.

Also contrary to myth, Einstein's abiding sense of being an outsider had little, initially at least, to do with being a Jew forced to make his way in a Gentile world. Though German-born, young Albert received most of his education and gained his first posts in

Switzerland; there, and later in Prague where he took a chair, his ethnic origins proved little handicap, and, like many Jews around 1900, he was rather eager (perhaps like Freud) to forget about the religion and the Jewish culture of his family. Indeed he married out, his first wife being a Greek Orthodox Serb. What truly fuelled his sense of being a loner was his profound antipathy to the chauvinism gripping even his fellow sci-

**ALBRECHT FÖLSING**  
**A Biography**  
By Albrecht Fölsing  
Viking, £25  
ISBN 0 670 85545 6

tists in the run-up to the First World War. Einstein, who adopted Swiss citizenship, could never fathom why a person's nationality was of any significance.

How then was it that in due course he became a leading campaigner for Zionism? It was the upsurge of vicious anti-Semitism in post-1918 Germany that stirred his dormant sense of Jewish identity and led him, once he had become the world's most famous scientist — indeed, the world's most famous Jew — to

campaign not for "Israel", yet another chauvinist nation state, but for turning Palestine into a cultural homeland for the Jews.

Attacked by anti-Semites and militant Zionists alike, Einstein was probably no more adroit at politics than at marriage. But his indiscretions somehow never mattered with the wider public, anxious to clutch hold of the coat-tails of genius, and delighted to find that such a brain could be loveable, approachable and humble, something like a cross between Christ and Chaplin, a latter-day holy fool.

All this is meticulously recorded in this monster book which, at risk of national stereotyping, could be said to have all the virtues of Prussian thoroughness (nor is it helped by Ewald Osers's wooden translation). The trouble is that livelier biographies have appeared recently, and Fölsing cannot outgun them with untripped sources or dazzling psychological insights.

The reader craves to be let into the secret of Einstein's psyche. From Arthur Koestler to Adrian Desmond, science biographers have given us windows onto scientists' minds. Fölsing, by contrast, rarely rises above a recital of Einstein's appointments diary.

**You can  
be too  
polite**

A. L. Kennedy

**THE NINE LIVES OF  
NAOMI MITCHISON**  
By Jenni Calder  
Virago, £20  
ISBN 1 85381 724 4

A *New Statesman* review of Naomi Mitchison's novel *Cloud Cuckoo Land* runs "... she has the ease, that definiteness of success, which shows that failure was not even thinkable: she does not make a book, it is there, real, solid, intimidating." The same might be said of Mitchison herself. "Long claimed as a Scottish author, Mitchison has been an alarming gold standard beside which the achievements of other Scottish writers tend to shrivel. She is a hard, if not impossible, act to follow. Her pursuit of excellence is a simple and often unselfconscious part of her nature, but it is also capable of producing the kind of awe which makes Calder's very polite biography of a — quite frequently — very impolite lady."

Now in her 100th year Mitchison has embraced a life of remarkable passion, commitment and sheer activity. Born in the genteel, intellectual Haldane dynasty, she became a nurse in the First World War, stunned international Brigaders with lectures on safe sex and energetically farmed her way through the Second World War. She charmed, infuriated, campaigned and wrote among Chelsea Bohemians, Cornish fishermen, Botswana villagers and parliamentary wives. Novelist, journalist, poet, playwright, she has pro-



Mitchison stands alone

duced more than 70 books, been mother to seven children and enjoyed one husband and several lovers.

Liaisons apart, Mitchison loved to stand alone. Having captivated a canoe she was learning to paddle, she answered her gentlemanly instructor's "I'll rescue you" with "no you won't". She felt herself constantly in danger of being a possession within relationships. Her desire was to compete on equal terms with men. Calder's approach is gentle, but still makes clear that Mitchison never really got her level playing field. After a decade or so of success leading into the Thirties, Mitchison's work lost favour. Despite ecstatic early reviews, by the Forties she was struggling to write and sustain her faith in her own abilities alone.

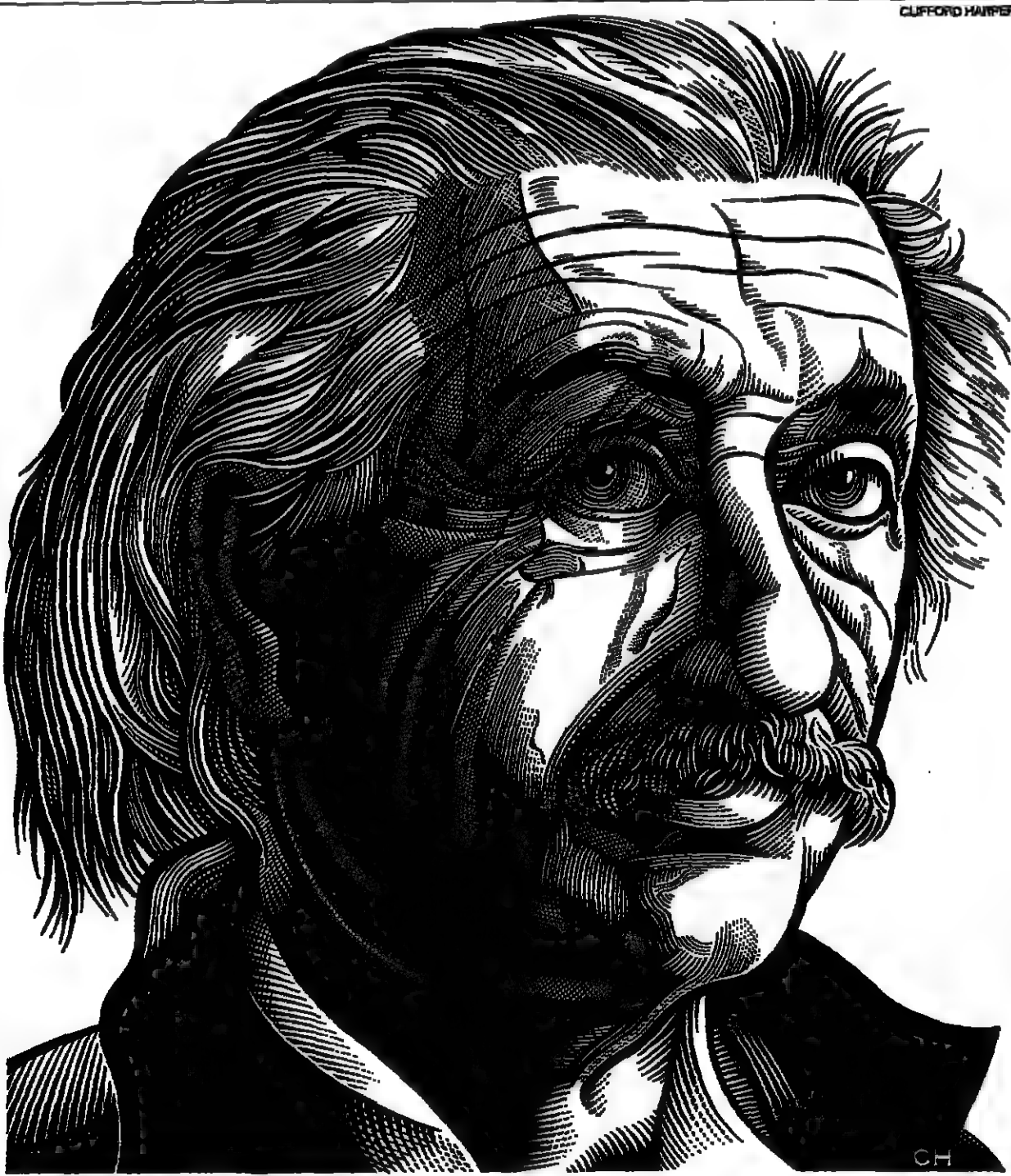
The literary establishment never forgave her postwar move to Scotland, long before Scottish writing became sexy. Readers may note that the London-centred, male-orientated literary culture described is not entirely unfamiliar today.

On these and other points, Calder relies faintly uncritically on Mitchison's undoubted abilities as an autobiographer. Mitchison is quoted as saying: "All my life I have been very much in the hands of the books I was writing... any of what I did was also part of a book." Far be it from me to suggest that you can just what any writer says in this area about as far as you can spit hot wax... but there are times when Calder seems frustratingly content to accept the image Mitchison presents without further question.

I abhor the second guesses of pop psychological biographers and don't suggest that Calder should have done a knife job on an admirable woman. But Mitchison, writer or fearlessly and clinically interested in her own and other's motivations... might sometimes have deserved a little more investigation.

Not that this isn't an immensely readable book, detailed enough to set up historical context without being stodgy, and well-disposed to the subject without being idolatrous. A decision has been taken to concentrate more on the life and less on the artistic process, but this has produced a work which will encourage readers to rediscover Mitchison's writing — for themselves — something I applaud wholeheartedly.

A. L. Kennedy's *Original Bliss* is published by Corgi, priced £14.99.



## The familial crises of two Cuban misses

**Rachel Campbell-Johnston**  
**THE AGÜERO SISTERS**  
By Cristina García  
Picador, £5.99  
ISBN 0 330 32016 0

CUBA, the outpost of a decayed ideal, nurtures a distinctive temperament. The giddy hedonism of an island which surely senses it cannot barricade itself much longer against the modern world mingles with disappointment of a shattered dream. This novel by Cuban émigrée Cristina García captures both these moods, distilling them into the twinned themes of sex and death.

The *Agüero Sisters* is the interweaving narrative of two daughters, Reina and Constanza. Reina, the younger, works as an electrician in Cuba. Stagnant and sensual, with thighs strengthened by shining up telegraph poles, her body is an open invitation to pleasure. "If she could grasp nothing in its entirety then why not celebrate what she could grasp with her own senses." She luxuriates in a power to reduce men to a state of helplessness. But when she is struck by lightning (the improbable becomes the norm in this novel) she begins to think it would be better if she were dead. Her grafted skin, mismatched and scratchy, smells to her of blood and sour milk. It ruins her familiar pleasures — "her rapture and her hot black scent". Until suddenly, at precisely 5.13 one morning, she suddenly knows one thing for certain: that she can no longer stay in Cuba. She illicitly escapes to join her sister Constanza in Miami.

Constanza, her elder sister, is petite with lacquered nails, carnelian lips and a firm belief that comfort should never be placed before style. Owner of a successful company

manufacturing beauty products, her chief concern is to stave off women's "little everyday deaths". "If politics have betrayed the Cubans and geography overlooked them, her *Cuerpo de Cuba* products still manage to touch the pink roots of their sadness."

Though the two sisters seem so different, they are rooted in a Cuban past which draws them together. The voices of their parents — two biologists whose life of shared passion ended in sudden and violent death — provides a context for their daughters' voices. Together they shape a mesmerising — if bewildering — portrait of a family whose lives reflect the mood and history of Cuba.

This is a loose, drifting novel. Curiously, they are rooted in a Cuban past which draws them together. The voices of their parents — two biologists whose life of shared passion ended in sudden and violent death — provides a context for their daughters' voices. Together they shape a mesmerising — if bewildering — portrait of a family whose lives reflect the mood and history of Cuba.

## The mind behind the apron

FEW organisations can have inspired such suspicion, irritation and fascination as Freemasonry. Masons have been condemned by the Roman Catholic Church as the enemies of religion: they have been accused of engaging in a worldwide conspiracy; their secret practices arouse both derision and dread; they have been associated with some of the wilder speculations about the origins of Christianity, featuring the Turin Shroud, the Knights Templar, Holy Blood and Holy Grail.

Alexander Platigorsky has attempted an academic exploration of Freemasonry as a religious, intellectual and social phenomenon. He examines the myths and rituals of the Lodge in comparative perspective, showing their similarity to elements in Buddhism, ancient Semitic religion as well as to Christianity. He also outlines the history of Freemasonry from its official emergence in the early 18th century and discusses the significance of the Masons' belief that their society can be traced back to Cain, who built the first city.

Unfortunately, readers who felt confused about Freemasonry before embarking on this book are likely to be even more perplexed by the time they stagger to the end. Platigorsky has no gift for narrative and impedes the progress of his argument with a mass of unnecessary, repetitive and misplaced speculation, theory and personal reflection. He has the annoying habit of

introducing a potentially fascinating insight (as, for example, that the first British Masons saw Freemasonry as a solution to the endemic tension between individual desire and public responsibility) without explaining precisely what he means.

Nevertheless, fugal moments of illumination make this frequently frustrating book worthwhile. It would appear, for example, that despite its conscious archaism, Freemasonry is an essentially modern movement, at one and the same time a reaction against the rationalism of the Enlightenment and an attempt to cast some of its precepts into an alternative form. Thus the syncretism of Freemasonry, which blends many diverse religious strains, can be compared to the Deism of the philosophers, which also sought to transcend the narrower confines of dogmatic faith.

Again, the Freemasons' emphasis on history can be seen in much the same light as later attempts by Hegel or Marx to discern the underlying theme that impels history forward. Platigorsky shows that the Masons' rewriting of world history was a philosophical rather than a factual exercise, intended as a symbolic manifestation of a trans-historical power that forms history but is not formed by it.

Indeed, like other religious movements, Freemasonry may well provide rituals and myths that enable people to cope with the peculiar stress and paradox of Western



Lodge concern: a Freemason General

modernity. The great merit of Platigorsky's book is his refusal to patronise Masons and his scrupulous attempt to see their ideas on their own terms. Perhaps any attempt to articulate rationally an esoteric philosophy, which of its very nature can only make sense to initiates and which appeals to a level beneath the cerebral and the conscious, is doomed to make it seem even more incomprehensible to outsiders than it is in practice.



# Paradise amidst suburbia

Roy Strong strolls through a stately work on Windsor

One of my more hilarious memories of the gardens and parks of Windsor is of a crew arriving to film the East Garden of the Castle and no one knowing where the switch which worked the fountain was to be located. Sadly the fountain known to Queen Victoria had been handed over to Kew Gardens, replaced in this reign by a hideous bronze lotus.

That anecdote in a way sums up the history of almost anything royal. Inevitably even in the case of parks and gardens, interest ebbs and flows as much as the availability of cash. And taste and aesthetic flair equally comes and goes. In this sense parks and gardens are far more vulnerable than buildings through the damage which can be done by sheer neglect.

Being enmeshed into the Royal Household (she is Curator of the Print Room in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle) Jane Roberts knows all of this only too well, but it has inhibited her sharp mind from uttering, for example, a word of criticism about the actions of her present employers, such as the demolition of most of the famous Victorian Kitchen Garden buildings. But this in no way detracts from a masterly volume which is essentially one of reference. Nonetheless, great pleasure is to be derived from the superb accumulation of visual evidence and the equally elegant presentation characteristic of Yale University Press.

Windsor Great Park and the smaller area to the north, Home Park, today consists of some 5,500 acres. This is the story of a remarkable continuity — more, I think, than any other royal domain. For this was once part of the hunting forest of the Normans. Yet today there is little that pre-dates the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660. To that era belongs the Long Walk, the spectacular avenue which strides away from the Castle to the Great Park. Everything else from the Baroque era has vanished, including the rules of rides along which the chaise bearing the corpulent Queen Anne bowed in pursuit of deer.

## ROYAL LANDSCAPE The Gardens and Parks of Windsor

By Jane Roberts  
Yale UP  
ISBN 0 300 07099 9

The park today is largely a monument to three members of the House of Hanover. The first is "Butcher" Cumberland who, in the aftermath of Culloden, set about transforming the landscape with temples, groves and eye-catchers. His greatest creation was the under-appreciated Virginia Water, the largest artificial lake ever made in Georgian England. The second is George III's Queen, Charlotte. To her we owe the enchantments of Frogmore House and the paradise surrounding it, a delight obscured by the gloom of Victoria and Albert's mausoleum.

Number three, the prodigal George VI, should have left more of a mark than he did. Here he hid himself away with his mistresses at Royal Lodge, hunting by secret ways down to his Disneyland Chinese Temple built to enable royalty to angle for minnows and sticklebacks. Not only has this gone, but all of Royal Lodge, too, but one room. His East Terrace Garden, changed, remains at the Castle, as does the once glorious Ruins of Leptis Magna, by Virginia Water, today a very sorry sight crying out for restoration.

By then the Great Park was a symbol of much that would have brought the monarchy tumbling had it not been for Robert, the Prince Consort. Everything, now, had to be done for profit and information. Model farms were built, the labouring classes coaxed for, prize cattle bred and steam-powered machinery introduced. Even, shades of our own age, chemical fertilisers were used. The Prince saw farming as an "industrial pursuit requiring capital, machinery and industry".

In this century only Sir Eric Savill has added anything of substance with his between-the-wars gardens of flowering



Loving care: repairing the imposing Copper Horse, erected by George IV in memory of his father, in 1699

shrubs. What is so striking is that it took the monarchy centuries to attain privacy but, once achieved, the forces of democracy eroded it again. These pressures have never ceased. Indeed, the Queen has annually to open her only private garden, the cemetery of Frogmore. What will hap-

pen in the new reign to this oasis in what has become suburbia it is intriguing to speculate. In the meantime Jane Roberts has provided everyone connected with Windsor Great Park with a magisterial work of reference by which to govern its management in the future.

# Different from the rest of us

Lesley Chamberlain

## EXTRAORDINARY MINDS

By Howard Gardner  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.99  
ISBN 0 297 8518

What makes the kind of extraordinary person who changes the way we think, listen, write or view the world? And is it something science can and should measure? Howard Gardner, who holds chairs of education and neurology at Harvard and Boston, believes extraordinary people have common characteristics: they reflect continually on their human condition and their work, they lever themselves forward by concentrating on their strengths and bypassing their weaknesses, and they almost reveal in their setbacks.

The Master type, Mozart, is possessed by "the skill, the personality, the will, indeed the rage" to bring his art to perfection. His struggle with his father and established taste is less interesting than the fact that music fills his being, that composing is less fatiguing than resting, and that his artistic personality always retains the childlike alongside the adult. Freud doesn't perfect but creates new areas of knowledge. He is the exemplary Maker, driven, addicted to his work, and quick to recover from criticism. Others are drawn into his orbit at their peril.

Enthralled by classifying, system-building and problem-solving, he is above all a problem finder. The arch-introspector Virginia Woolf is a similarly driven pioneer, wanting to explore and spell out how it feels to be conscious, but her domain is herself. "An accelerator but no brakes," in Quentin Bell's phrase, she surfs the highs of manic depression, and has clear, true vision in its troughs. Family problems add to her inwardness. She, whose life would end in suicide, is less than exemplary in dealing with criticism and adversity.

Gandhi, the Influencer, is at once far more orientated towards other people, and perceptive of their motives, than the other three types. His drive is to speak up, to risk his position in the group, to examine his own values and set new standards. If you want to be extraordinary you should live in the right age, when a rush of new ideas waits to be synthesised. Better, understand the uses of failure and introspection and wrestle with tension, don't solve it. And I would say, though Gardner neglects the topics, you should

also be ill and be lonely. This is a peculiarly mixed-up, ill-tuned book, which at times reads like a careers guidance booklet and feels like an approach to the altar in wellies. Its "scientific" quality is less obvious than its decency. Gardner perhaps remembers, as I do, those Good Lives that were the stuff of junior school silent reading, and before the sexuality of Florence Nightingale was un-



Woolf, Gandhi: genius

masked. While acknowledging the pain extraordinary people often cause, he is right to admire genius and look at its benign, pedagogical aspects. Egalitarian or perhaps just cynical colleagues on the Post-Modern bandwagon who accuse Gardner of betraying the genius of Joe Soap, seem wrong to the point of betraying the human race.

But this book is too small for its aims, too painfully pedestrian in style, and lacks reference to older research into greatness, above all I think to Freud's, erstwhile colleague Adler. The theory of over-compensation for weaknesses took Mozart as one of its greatest exemplars.

# Held in bondage to event

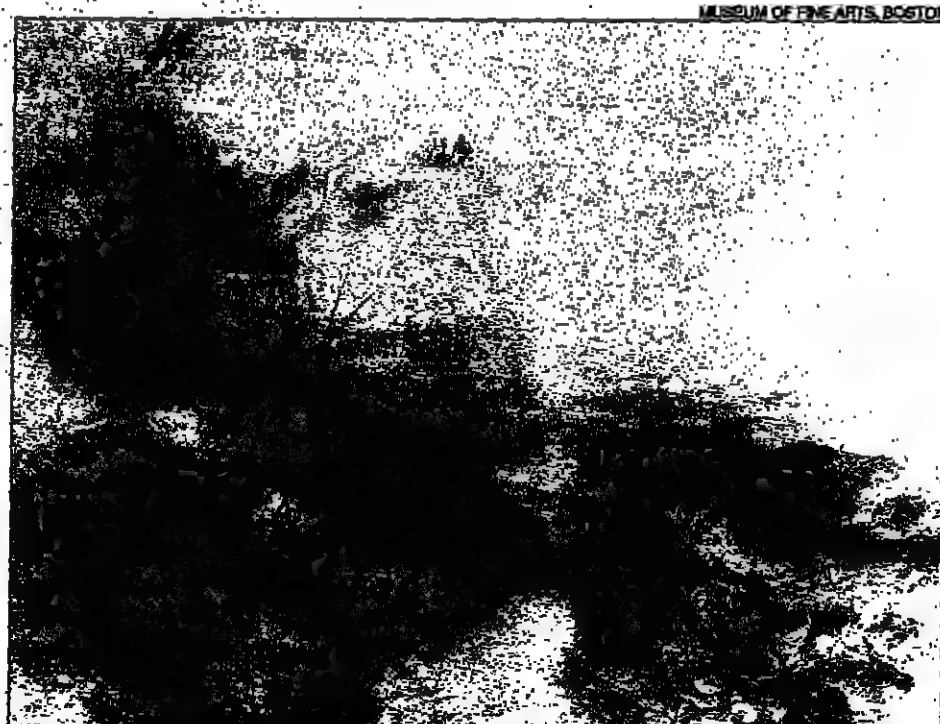
David Dabydeen

## FEEDING THE GHOSTS

By Fred D'Aguiar  
Chano & Windus, £14.99  
ISBN 0 7011 6668 1

In September 1781, the Liverpool ship *Zong* left the coast of Africa for Jamaica with 470 slaves on board. By November, more than 60 slaves had died, and the captain decided to dispose of half the rest who were sick by throwing them overboard. English law at the time, the captain believed, would define them as goods lost at sea, and their insurance value would be recoverable. When the claim was lodged in London, the underwriters refused to pay up, a court case ensued, and the captain won. Abolitionists like Granville Sharp described the death of the Africans as "a flagrant offence against God and against all mankind". He pressed for the captain and his crew to be prosecuted for murder, but no such action was entertained by the courts.

The *Zong* case received considerable publicity in England, and many anti-slavery tracts used it as an example of the barbarity to which the English nation had sunk in its commercial greed. Popular ballads exploited its lurid sensational details, and helped to bring the Abolition movement to the attention of the common people. The most famous work inspired by *Zong* was Turner's painting *The Slave Ship*, exhibited at the Royal Academy



The suffering sea: Turner's *The Slave Ship* expresses the horror of slavery indirectly

in 1840. It was, according to Ruskin, his greatest work in the sublime style. In *The Slave Ship*, the act of inhumanity is commemorated in the epic raving of the elements. The very sea and sky are caught up in monumental suffering. The 19th century produced no greater testimony to the cruelties of the African trade than Turner's painting.

Turner's work raised questions about how best to represent slavery which are still relevant today. Artists like Blake dwell in detail on the gross abuse of the African body, but Turner avoided the physical altogether, preferring to let the viewer imagine the horrors of slavery. Black writers of our time have faced a similar challenge. Charles Johnson, in his magnificent novel *The Middle Passage*, chose Turner's path, his prose conveying the epic energy of the sea. A novel on slavery, it is also an old-fashioned sea

yarn, Johnson packing his narrative with vivid descriptions of storms and creating characters whose erudition and philosophical ruminations deliberately break the frame of realism. Like Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Johnson's interest is as much in the writing of slavery, as in slavery itself. He plays with language with the exuberance and inventiveness of a poet.

Fred D'Aguiar, a fine poet, strenuously avoids lyrical treatment of slavery in his new novel. The sublimity of Turner, the proto-Expressionism of Blake and the magical realism of Johnson and Morrison are not for him. He chooses a documentary style, giving us the facts and the figures of the *Zong* episode, and not bothering much with the creation of character or colour. It is a novel that is consciously more "faction" than fiction. Captain Collingwood, villain of the piece, has

no existence outside the ship and the High Court. The slaves are given little recollection of their villages, except for "noble savage" type dances in the arms of lovers, dances at harvest, at births, at deaths... No attempt is made to imagine Africa, or individual lives.

Stripping the novel of artistic language and vivid imagery can work successfully. Ishiguro's stated intention (albeit tongue-in-cheek) has been to write without "effects". In D'Aguiar's writing, however, the flattening of the narrative leaves the impression that the poet is taking a break from poetry by producing a perfunctory novel. But he is too good a writer to be truly dull and to engage in self-denial. There is the occasional surge of imagery that suddenly disturbs the prose, reminding us of D'Aguiar's talent. His effort to write a dull novel fails, thankfully, at these moments.



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## DEGREE COURSE VACANCIES 1997: ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEGREE vacancies in arts and social sciences are updated today for students hoping to start at university or college this autumn.

The number of places available continues to reduce steadily as students claim the last "free" higher education courses before the Government's introduction of £1,000 course fees in 1998. No-one starting a degree this year will pay any tuition charges.

Fully updated degree vacancies are published in *The Times* in a three-day cycle throughout August, with arts and social sciences on Thursdays and Mondays, engineering and technology on Fridays and Tuesdays, and science on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Asterisk shows courses are part of modular schemes, which are available in a variety of combinations. All other subjects are identified by the course code used in the UCAS handbook.

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## FOOTBALL

# League will wait for referee to report on Blackley

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SCOTTISH League officials will wait for a report from Hugh Dallas, the referee, before deciding whether to take action against John Blackley, the St Johnstone assistant manager, for his furious reaction to the award of a penalty to Celtic in the Scottish Coca-Cola Cup third-round tie on Tuesday night.

Blackley needed to be restrained by police after Dallas awarded a penalty for handball against Calum Davidson during extra time. Simon Donnelly scored to secure a 1-0 victory for Celtic and a place in the quarter-finals.

Dallas had earlier sent off John O'Neill, of St Johnstone, for aiming a kick at Malky Mackay and, moments before the end, O'Neill's team-mate,

Roddy Grant, was shown the red card for deliberate handball. It was the penalty decision, however, that drew the greatest anger from Blackley as unfancied St Johnstone, the surprise package of the season so far, frustrated their more illustrious opponents.

The Scottish League will ultimately decide Blackley's fate as the Coca-Cola Cup falls under their jurisdiction, rather than the Scottish Football Association. Paul Sturrock, the St Johnstone manager, said: "It got a bit heated in the dug-out at times. As it happens, I do feel it was a penalty kick. Sometimes you get the rub of the green, sometimes you don't."

The Celtic match-winner, Donnelly, hopes that his team

can improve on their lacklustre display at McDiarmid Park on Tuesday and leave with the same result when they make the return journey for a Bell's Scottish League premier division encounter on Saturday. Celtic have lost both of their opening league fixtures and Donnelly said: "We have to use this game as a lift-off after such a bad start and we must come back here and get three league points on the board. We have maybe been guilty of not battling in our last few games, but here we proved we can fight as well as play."

"It was a hard game for us, but we just gave it 100 per cent and got through, which will give us confidence for the challenges ahead of us."

Ally McCoist re-wrote another chapter in the Rangers' record books on Tuesday night when his hat-trick in the 4-1 win against Falkirk in their third-round tie took his tally of first-team goals to 421. His achievement out little like the man whose record he had broken, though.

Jimmy Smith carved a path through Scottish defences between 1929 and 1946 and when he retired, McCoist had beaten his record, he said, with a smile. "Tell Ally McCoist I missed more goals than he'll ever score."

Smith, 85, lives alone only a few miles from Ibrox, but only watches Rangers on the television now. Of McCoist, he said: "I've seen what he can do and I am very impressed. Ally's got great reflexes and is very dangerous. He is good in the air, even though he is not that tall, and has good pace. He's one of the best centres Rangers have ever had."

"People will say that Ally's record is more of an achievement than mine as I scored a lot in wartime, but what shouldn't be forgotten is that we played with a much heavier ball and usually on heavier grounds. Ally might have struggled to have scored as many then, but you have got to give him credit for what he has achieved. He's had a brilliant career."

## Souness signs Dorigo to ease Torino's task

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GRAEME SOUNESS completed the signing of Tony Dorigo, the former England defender, from Leeds United yesterday as part of the attempt by Torino to return to the top level of Italian football.

The deal - a one-year contract with an optional second year - had been agreed with the Serie B club earlier in the week, subject to a medical examination that Dorigo, 31, has now passed. An attacking left back, Dorigo's career had been dogged by injury problems recently and his contract at Leeds had not been renewed. "I've come to Italy to play in Serie A and I'm sure that with Souness in charge, I'm going to manage it with Torino," he said. "I had other offers, but Torino are too famous a team to turn down. My father [who is Italian] has spoken to me about them a lot."

Federico Bonetto, the Torino secretary general, said: "We needed a player for that position and Souness

wanted Dorigo. I think the club has made an excellent choice."

Francis Lee, the Manchester City chairman, insisted yesterday that the Manchester club must hang on to Georgi Kinkladze, the Georgian midfielder, if promotion to the FA Cup Premiership is to be achieved. Kinkladze, 24, had been linked with moves to Liverpool and Everton, but Lee - backed up by Frank Clark, the City manager - said that the player would be staying.

"Our highest prize this season is going to be getting into the Premiership and to do that without a star player of Kinkladze's quality would be difficult," Lee said.

Brighton were hoping that their plans to switch their home games to Millwall would move a step nearer yesterday.

Talks were being held between the Football League, police and council officials to discuss the consequences of Brighton playing at the New Den for as long as three years.



With her son, Laurie, looking on, Audrey Briggs plays a short-iron approach

## Bartletts recover four-hole deficit

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A MEETING of past champions produced a scintillating match on the second day of the Burtill Family Foursomes yesterday as Mary Bartlett and her son, Jerome, reproduced the form that won them the title in 1993 to beat Gillian Warner and her son, Russell, champions two years ago.

The victorious pair, from Beaconsfield, lost the opening four holes to the Warners, of Chalfont St Giles, but came back strongly and took the lead for the first time in the short hole, where Jerome struck his tee shot to within

15 feet, and went on to win 2 and 1.

Ann Croft and her son, Michael, the reigning champions, eased into today's fifth round with a 2 and 1 victory over the Deans, of Prenton, but Laurie Briggs, 14, and his mother, Audrey, a former Welsh women's champion, went out 3 and 1 to the Gowers, of Hankley Common, despite being three up after six holes.

An automatic place in next year's Open Championship at Royal Birkdale will be the rich reward for the winner of the European amateur individual championship, which begins

today at the spectacular Imperial Dome course beside Lake Geneva. The champions of England, Scotland and Wales - Arad Wainwright, Craig Hisslop and Jamie Donaldson - are in the 143-strong field.

Missing, however, will be members of the unsuccessful Walker Cup team, who are still in the United States preparing for the US Amateur championship, and many leading Irish players. Daniel Ossion, of Sweden, will be defending his title and there is a very strong continental entry.

## TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP	EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP
Finland 0-1 Norway (in Tampere); Hungary 2-0 Netherlands (in Budapest); Group last: Belarus 0-1 Sweden (in Minsk); Estonia 1-0 Austria (in Haapsalu); Group first: Bulgaria 1-0 in Sofia; Group second: Turkey 3-0 in Istanbul; Group third: Greece 1-0 Lithuania (in Dublin); Romania 1-0 Macedonia (in Belgrade); Group first: Ukraine 1-0 Albania (in Kiev).	Finland 0-1 Norway (in Tampere); Hungary 2-0 Netherlands (in Budapest); Group last: Belarus 0-1 Sweden (in Minsk); Estonia 1-0 Austria (in Haapsalu); Group first: Bulgaria 1-0 in Sofia; Group second: Turkey 3-0 in Istanbul; Group third: Greece 1-0 Lithuania (in Dublin); Romania 1-0 Macedonia (in Belgrade); Group first: Ukraine 1-0 Albania (in Kiev).
GOALKEEPERS: Finland 1; Norway 1; Hungary 1; Netherlands 1; Belarus 1; Sweden 1; Minsk 1; Estonia 1; Austria 1; Bulgaria 1; Turkey 1; Greece 1; Lithuania 1; Romania 1; Macedonia 1; Ukraine 1; Albania 1.	GOALKEEPERS: Finland 1; Norway 1; Hungary 1; Netherlands 1; Belarus 1; Sweden 1; Minsk 1; Estonia 1; Austria 1; Bulgaria 1; Turkey 1; Greece 1; Lithuania 1; Romania 1; Macedonia 1; Ukraine 1; Albania 1.
GOALKEEPERS: Finland 1; Norway 1; Hungary 1; Netherlands 1; Belarus 1; Sweden 1; Minsk 1; Estonia 1; Austria 1; Bulgaria 1; Turkey 1; Greece 1; Lithuania 1; Romania 1; Macedonia 1; Ukraine 1; Albania 1.	GOALKEEPERS: Finland 1; Norway 1; Hungary 1; Netherlands 1; Belarus 1; Sweden 1; Minsk 1; Estonia 1; Austria 1; Bulgaria 1; Turkey 1; Greece 1; Lithuania 1; Romania 1; Macedonia 1; Ukraine 1; Albania 1.

## ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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RACING: ODDS-ON DEFEAT OF REAMS OF VERSE IN YORKSHIRE OAKS ADDS TO DISAPPOINTING RESULTS FOR WARREN PLACE TEAM

## Cecil beats hasty retreat for the long journey home

By CHRIS McGRATH

IT HAPPENED to be Henry Cecil, but he can rest assured that he was not alone. "Not my week, I'm afraid," he said. "I think I've got home now." The trainer, doubtless, consoled himself that he would, at least, miss the traffic. But the way to do that at York yesterday was to stay to the bitter end. For the only others prepared to do so must have been bookmakers — and their cars, so heavily laden, will have been easily left behind.

Cecil had just watched Reams Of Verse follow Bostra Sham, the previous day, in falling to head the odds — and over £200,000 to boot — in a group one race. Then, an hour later, his Bold Fact surrendered the lead close home when hot favourite for the Scottish Equitable Gimcrack Stakes.

In between those disappointments for Warren Place, punters had sought a way back in the Tote-Ebor Handicap, only to see the first and second favourites beaten in a photo-finish by a 33-1 shot, Far

Ahead. Shortly afterwards, the bookmakers put up their umbrellas as a light rain filled the humid air — when pennies from heaven take the form of banknotes, however, you don't really need protection.

Reams Of Verse, running for the first time since winning the Oaks, was returning to the scene of her spectacular Musidora Stakes success at the May meeting. But she had

Timekeeper, the new ratings service compiled by James Willoughby, pinpointed Far Ahead (33-1) and Chmader (6-1) at York yesterday.

her cutting edge blunted in the Aston Upthorpe Yorkshire Oaks by the fierce gallop shrewdly ordered by Michael Stoute for Crown Of Light and Whitewater Affair. The latter, a nugget among racehorses, stretched her lead courageously in the straight — but My Emma, having only her seventh race at the age of four, scythed through the field to lead just before the post.

Reams Of Verse, going easily on the home turn, fell to pieces and finished fourth. "She was cantering two and suddenly hit a wall," Cecil said. "She didn't stay. When she won the Oaks, they were fiddling about and she didn't have to race until late on."

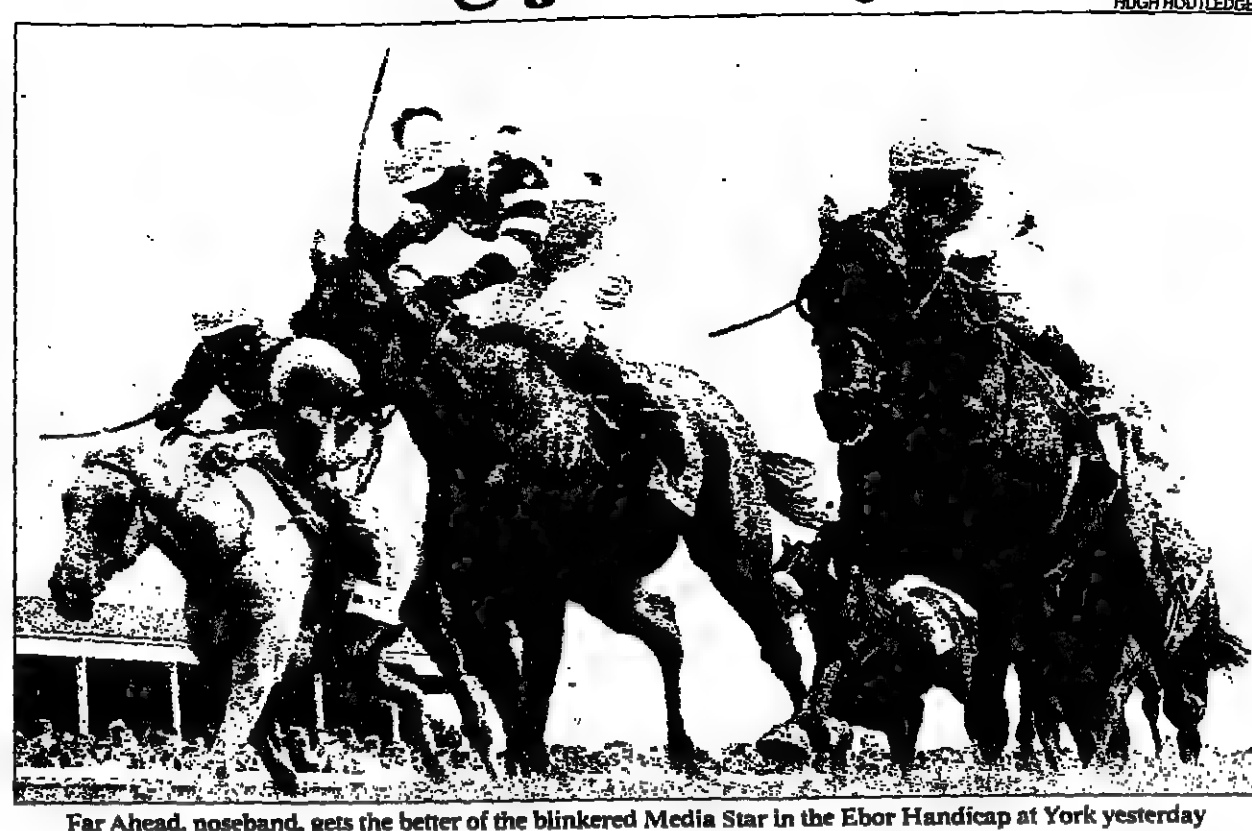
Rae Guest has given My Emma a light campaign, with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe specifically in mind, and she is quoted 20-1 for Longchamp by Coral and William Hill. "The only thing that beats her is if they don't go fast enough," Guest said. "She loves taking horses on, and the faster they go, the easier it is to pick them off."

It was likewise the biggest day in the career of another modest operation when Les Eyre saddled the Ebor winner.

some time on Tuesday. For a Yorkshireman, this is the pinnacle, the greatest day of my life.

There was less in the way of euphoria from Barry Hills. He had told John Grant — with the trainer, co-owner of Carrowkeel — that they should accept an offer from Sheikh Mohammed's brother-in-law, Marwan Al-Maktoum, for their colt. After he wrested the lead back from Bold Fact in the Gimcrack, Hills confessed that he had believed them to have made "the sale of the century." Earlier, moreover, Hills had saddled Amyas to win the opener. "I backed him the last time, when he was unlucky, to win £20,000," he revealed. "I didn't have a penny on him today."

That sort of day, all round, then — by the time of the sixth, the Roses Stakes, there was an air of desperation as the favourite was sent off at 11-8 on. He was — for those who had not grasped that the rub of the turf was against them — called Titanic. He was also, needless to say, unplaced.



Far Ahead, noseband, gets the better of the blinkered Media Star in the Ebor Handicap at York yesterday

THUNDERER	THUNDERER
2.05 Dantesque	3.45 Great Child
2.35 Embassy	4.15 Designer
3.10 Averti	5.15 POTEEN (nep)

Timekeeper's top ratings: 3.45 JO MELL.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Shuhrah, 3.45 THE PRINCE (nep), 4.15 Designer.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE TOTE JACKPOT MEETING: SIS

## 2.05 LADYBROOK INVERNESS HANICAP

(101,220: 1m 31.50y) (16 runners)

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120

LONG BEATS: 10.2 Dantesque, 10.3 Dantesque, 10.4 Dantesque, 10.5 Dantesque, 10.6 Dantesque, 10.7 Dantesque, 10.8 Dantesque, 10.9 Dantesque, 11.0 Dantesque, 11.1 Dantesque, 11.2 Dantesque, 11.3 Dantesque, 11.4 Dantesque, 11.5 Dantesque, 11.6 Dantesque, 11.7 Dantesque, 11.8 Dantesque, 11.9 Dantesque, 12.0 Dantesque.

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100%: Dantesque, 10.2 Dantesque, 10.3 Dantesque, 10.4 Dantesque, 10.5 Dantesque, 10.6 Dantesque, 10.7 Dantesque, 10.8 Dantesque, 10.9 Dantesque, 11.0 Dantesque, 11.1 Dantesque, 11.2 Dantesque, 11.3 Dantesque, 11.4 Dantesque, 11.5 Dantesque, 11.6 Dantesque, 11.7 Dantesque, 11.8 Dantesque, 11.9 Dantesque, 12.0 Dantesque.

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## CRICKET

## McCague's ban body blow to Kent

By IVO TENNANT

**TAUNTON** (first day of four: Somerset won toss; Somerset have scored 336 for six wickets against Kent)

INTENT as they are on winning the Britannic Assurance county championship, Kent chose to conserve Martin McCague's vigour by omitting him from their match against the Australians last weekend. They need scarcely have bothered. In his third over yesterday, the umpire, Alan Whitehead, ordered McCague out of the attack for the rest of the innings for bowling an excessive number of bouncers, followed by a beamer.

Quite apart from anything else, it was exceedingly unintelligent, given that Kent, who were ten points behind the leaders at the start of play, were reduced to four regular bowlers on another sweltering day. Rob Turner, the recipient of the bouncers and the

no-balled, and then a ball which Whitehead referred to as "a chest-high full toss".

Both bowler and umpire declared that this was accidental, but, Whitehead said: "I had no choice, even though McCague apologised. He had already received a final warning." So McCague, who will be able to bowl in Somerset's second innings, spent the rest of the day in the outfield, where he dropped Ecclestone, who also made a century. It was a straightforward chance.

Ever since Nasser Hussain advocated after the last Test match that county cricket was too chummy, there has been an spate of unpleasant incidents. McCague, with his Irish-Australian background, has never appeared a softie. He has bowled well this season, but this was a daft piece of cricket. Marsh, the Kent captain, had a lengthy mid-pitch discussion with Whitehead, to no avail. If Lord Harris had still been around, McCague would no doubt have been banished to the pavilion.

John Wright, the normally genial Kent coach, limited himself to a terse "the umpires are in control of the match". David Kemp, the club chairman, who has a firm belief in upholding standards, was at the ground, as was Derek Uffon, the chairman of the cricket committee.

The result was that some excellent cricket was overshadowed. Turner, who struck 20 fours and batted for all but the closing overs, is one of the highest English-qualified cricketers in the first-class averages and must have a chance of going on the A tour this winter. His age, 30 in November, will not help his cause. He showed no histrionics over the beamer and, on a pitch that eased in the afternoon, drove with much zest.

Somerset were without Bowler and Harden, the captain and his deputy, and almost lost Ecclestone, their third choice to lead them, as well. He retired with a knee injury when still in single figures, returning with his side in need of someone to stay with Turner. His first championship century was reached in the final over and included 16 fours and a six.

## SCOREBOARD

**SOMERSET: First Innings**  
R J Turner c Cowdrey b Ealham 144  
P C L Holford c Ward b Phillips 103  
S C Ecclestone not out 103  
M N Latham c Ward b Ealham 28  
M E Treaclock c Marsh b Fleming 10  
M Burns c Wells b Phillips 10  
G D Ross c Marsh b Fleming 35  
S Hargreave not out 11  
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 8) 16  
Total (8 wickets, 104 overs) 336  
A P van Tonder, M Aslam and K J Shree to bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-75, 3-76, 4-80, 5-148, 6-319  
**BOWLING: McCague 21-0-22-0, Phillips 20-5-74-2, Ealham 24-5-58-2, Fleming 20-5-55-2, Strong 20-5-78-0, Wells 6-2-18-0**  
**KENT: D P Fulton, E T Smith, T R Ward, A P Wells, G R Cowdrey, M A Ealham, M V Fleming, H A Marsh, P A Strang, M J McCague, S J Phillips**  
Bonus points: Somerset 3 Kent 2  
Umpires: RA White and AG T Whitehead

beamer — which missed him — batted until shortly before the close, making a career-best 144. The England and Wales Cricket Board said it would not be taking any action.

Whitehead, a former Test umpire, acted in accordance with Law 42, which gives him no leeway. In his opening over, McCague, who became carried away with the life he discovered in this pitch, was warned for bowling two bouncers. His second over was relatively uneventful. His third began with a bouncer, a second bouncer, which was



McCague departs for the outfield after Whitehead, left, the umpire, had ordered his removal from the attack

## Hungry Wells makes good use of reprieve

By PAT GIBSON

**LEICESTER** (first day of four: Leicestershire have scored 373 for seven wickets against Derbyshire)

THERE has still been no satisfactory explanation for the Derbyshire conflict that began with the captain, Dean Jones, walking out in June and led to the chairman, Mike Horton, resigning on the eve of this match, but it was not difficult to pinpoint the precise moment when it all went wrong for them again yesterday.

In the twelfth over, Vince Wells, the Leicestershire opener, who was then on 25, gave Dominic Cork a straightforward return catch that the England all-rounder inexplicably dropped. In the 96th over, Wells was finally out, finishing within ten runs of his fourth double-century in two seasons.

Apart from Maddy, who contributed 33 to an opening stand of 144, and Whitaker, who positively bristled in a

third-wicket partnership of 89 in only 17 overs, none of the other Leicestershire batsmen got very far. Wells, however, more than made up for that by scoring his 190 off 291 balls in seven minutes over six hours, hitting 33 fours and a six.

Leicestershire signed Wells as an all-rounder when he was released by Kent five years ago, but since being asked to open the batting last season, he has shown himself to be one of the sweetest timers of the ball in county cricket, with a voracious appetite for runs. He had much to do with Leicestershire winning the championship last season and he was just the man to make Derbyshire pay for some ordinary bowling once Cork had put him down.

Wells had reached 71 by lunch and he needed only 15 balls afterwards to race to his third century this summer as he ruthlessly saw off Blackwell, the young left-arm spinner before clattering the suffering Cork for successive boundaries.

## Essex rely on fearless Law to impose order

By RICHARD HOBSON

**WORKSOP** (first day of four: Essex won toss; Essex have scored 319 for four wickets against Nottinghamshire)

THERE is a familiar pattern to fixtures here at Central Avenue. Batting is a joy for three days, then the pitch crumbles and the spin bowlers emerge from the outfield to run amok. Paul Johnson, the Nottinghamshire captain, may well cut a gloomy presence over his cordialties this morning as he ponders the tribulations ahead.

Nottinghamshire, who have released Andy Pick after 15 seasons, asked the groundsman to leave a good covering of grass on the surface in an attempt to assist their players and reduce the threat of Such. Ball bat only rarely, though, and, despite the loss of Hussain to England and Irani to injury, Essex will be considerably happier with the state of play.

It says much for the pace of the pitch that Noon, the wicketkeeper, was standing

up to the stumps after just 20 minutes. Only Stuart Law scored runs at any great pace — 115 from 131 balls in a shade more than three hours. Such statistics imply domination, but, in this case, they tell only part of the story.

On 18, Law attempted to loft Evans over long-on and saw the ball narrowly evade the despairing Robinson. Nor was that the only occasion on which he went through with an upthrust drive when less confident players might have checked the stroke. Fortune favoured the brave. The second of his two sixes against Aftab landed on the adjacent bowling green before the young slow left-hander took revenge when Law top-edged a sweep to Noon.

Like Pridham in the morning, Law passed a thousand runs for the season. The most promising innings, however, came from Hodgson, 22, a left-hander. He had proceeded to 44 without discomfort when Aftab removed him with a slower ball.

## All downhill for Glamorgan's title challenge

Simon Wilde on a bizarre day's cricket in the shadow of Sugar Loaf Mountain

Anywhere else and it might have raised an eyebrow or two, but, at this particular cricket ground, it was really to be expected. The quaint Pen-y-Found ground, in Aberavenny, is not only one of the loveliest in which county matches are staged — it nestles beneath Sugar Loaf Mountain — it also has a rare talent for throwing up the bizarre. It is a reputation that it lived up to fully yesterday.

It was, truly, a Welsh comedy of errors. First Matthew Maynard, captain of a Glamorgan side that is pushing hard for the Britannic Assurance county championship, experienced a last-minute change of heart about his team to play Northamptonshire and decided to field a second spin bowler. He sent for Dean Cosker, who was 150 miles away at the time, preparing to play for the second XI at Lensbury CC, near

but, in this case, were five inches out, giving batsman and bowler seriously cock-eyed views of each other.

"I have been doing this job 13 years and this is the first time this has happened," Ken Mackenzie, the Aberavenny club groundsman, said. "We took all the usual measurements and they appeared to be OK. I do not know what went wrong. It was not a case of the stumps being out of alignment. We did not have to move them at all."

Play was deemed to have been held up for 28 minutes, though it did not resume until 12.20pm because of a shower, and the scheduled intervals and close of play were put back accordingly.

The crowd of 1,500 was informed of these changes once the public address was working, the ground having been briefly hit by a power cut.

Northamptonshire resumed their innings where they had left off, on seven for no wicket, but seemed to prefer crazy vision to the 20-20 variety. By lunch, they had slumped 51 for three on a ground renowned for high scoring.

They were in even greater difficulty at 182 for six in the afternoon, by which stage Glamorgan had been reinforced by Cosker and Evans, but Corran led a fightback with a career-best innings of 159 from 201 balls.

He struck two sixes and 25 fours and revived memories of Andrew Symonds's world record of 20 sixes in a match here two years ago. Local residents and members of the bowls club around which part of the boundary skirts have long since got used to hearing their hard hats when county cricket makes its annual visit to the town.

Northamptonshire closed on 302 for eight and lived to fight another day, assuming they do not in the interim fall foul of the local cuisine. Twelve years ago, the Worcestershire side went down with food poisoning here.

## Boon breaks captains' duck

**CHESTER-LE-STREET** (first day of four: Durham won toss; Durham have scored 285 for six wickets against Middlesex)

DAVID BOON yesterday laid to rest the gloomy statistic that no previous Durham captain had scored a championship hundred and, in doing so, ensured that Durham avoided a customary mid-innings collapse (Alistair Storey wicket).

Winning the toss on a cloudless day, he elected to bat on what appeared to be a blanching surface devoid of any real pace. Middlesex's

initial spell certainly provided little to trouble Durham, but the visitors then tightened their line and Lewis was soon smothered when Kallis jagged one back in the seventeenth over. Johnson, denied the new ball, was now producing the hostility Middlesex had earlier lacked. When Speight squared up and edged Kallis to Gatting at first slip, Durham were subsiding at 153 to four.

Boon, though, with a combination of resolute defence and imperious driving, compiled 110 from 229 balls with 14 fours. From the Middlesex

reaction to Hewitt's head-high drop at a custom-made fine leg, with Boon on 42, they sensed that it would be costly.

Before bad light and drizzle ended play 11 overs early, Middlesex, through Kallis, had captured both Weston — who profited from Boon's composure — and Boon. This ensures that a good early spell today will see off Durham's tail, whereupon Middlesex can begin the task of establishing a sizeable lead on a pitch that is likely to become more uneven. Without Ramprakash, this will be less than routine.

## Hutchinson roars back

**SCARBOROUGH** (first day of four: Sussex won toss; Yorkshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 17 runs ahead of Sussex)

PAUL HUTCHINSON is a name remembered vaguely by most cricket-lovers. A surprising selection last season for the Rest against England A, after making a promising debut in Zimbabwe, he then injured his back and was virtually forgotten (Derek Hodgson writes).

The Yorkshire player is issued a reminder yesterday. Bowling a lively left-arm over, he claimed his third five-

wicket haul in successive matches and, this summer, has 25 wickets at an average of 11. Sussex, on a greenish pitch that is taking turn, lost their openers for three runs. Once Keith Newell had gone, his younger brother, Mark, who made an admirable unbeaten 62, was left looking agast as the last five wickets went down in 15 balls for seven.

Yorkshire, too, found the pitch no place to picnic, but Darren Lehmann, who has been preferred to Michael Bevan as their overseas professional next year, demonstrated why he has become such a popular figure.

## Mirza makes most of chance

**EDGBASTON** (first day of four: Warwickshire won toss; Worcestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 232 runs behind Warwickshire)

IN TERMS of championship honours, this could be a make-or-break match (Jack Bailey writes). Worcestershire have the more realistic chance, but the Warwickshire are not quite out of it yet. Early signs belied the fact, though. Several Warwickshire batsmen sailed into the twenties or thirties, played one rash shot too many and left.

There was a great deal in the conditions for the seam bowlers throughout the day. There was, too, occasional awkward bounce, especially from the Pavilion End, but there were also too many judicious strokes. With 40 from 69 balls, Neil Smith shared top billing with extras, but someone should have progressed way beyond that. Even though 22 overs had been lost to rain, the match was unseemly. None of the Worcestershire bowlers took more advantage than Sherryar and Mirza. The latter, 19 and newly-acquired, varied his pace and line intelligently and, looked a real prospect, while Sherryar accounted for both openers as they flitted outside the off stump and set the trend for most of the rest.

When Warwickshire came to bowl, Brown also profited, accounting for both openers before the close. Weston holed out to long leg, were Motes took a remarkable catch, while Corbis shuffled in front and missed. If the humid conditions persist and the pitch remains as lively, it looks as though another four-day match will finish well inside the allotted time.

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Briannic Assurance county championship	
<b>Durham v Middlesex</b>	<b>Warwickshire v Worcestershire</b>
<b>CHESTER-LE-STREET</b> (first day of four: Durham won toss; Durham have scored 285 for six wickets against Middlesex)	<b>EDGBASTON</b> (first day of four: Warwickshire won toss; Worcestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 232 runs behind Warwickshire)
<b>DURHAM: First Innings</b>	<b>WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings</b>
J B Lister c Kallis b 38	N W Knight c Rhodes b 20
S Hutton c Brown b 20	J L Harris c Rhodes b 25
J E Morris c Gatting b 110	J L Harris c Rhodes b 25
M J Bailey c Johnson b 20	N A Wood c Rhodes b 20
R M Weston c Gatting b 36	T P Lister c Rhodes b 20
D J G Salter c Gatting b 22	D P Brown c Rhodes b 20
M M Storey not out 11	R F Gabe c Rhodes b 20
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 8) 16	G Wicket b 20
Total (6 wickets, 93.3 overs) 285	T K Pinner not out 20
J Boring c J S Brown and A Walker to bat 10.4	M A V Bell not out 4
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-55, 2-68, 3-131, 4-153, 5-238, 6-260	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-53, 3-111, 4-115, 5-131, 6-148, 7-197, 8-238, 9-248
<b>BOWLING: J S Brown 22-6-47-0, Hewitt 15-2-50-0, Kallis 18-6-54-1, Johnson 17-3-45-2, Duffin 12-3-23-0, Wicket 9-3-21-0</b>	<b>BOWLING: Sherryar 15-3-48-3, Motes 16-4-61-4, Motes 16-4-56-1, Lister 17-3-48-2, Lister 17-3-48-2, Lister 17-3-48-2</b>
<b>MIDDLESEX: J C Pooley, J H Kallis, M W Gatting, C A Shah, P N Wood, H A Marsh, A R C Fletcher</b>	<b>WARWICKSHIRE: J S Brown, N A Wood, T P Lister, D P Brown, R F Gabe, G Wicket, T K Pinner, M A V Bell, F Gabe</b>
Bonus points: Durham 2 Middlesex 2	Bonus points: Warwickshire 2 Worcestershire 2
Umpires: B Davidson and M J Kitchin	Umpires: J C Balderson and B J Meyer
<b>Glamorgan v Northamptonshire</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire v Essex</b>
<b>ABERAVENNY</b> (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss; Northamptonshire have scored 332 for six wickets against Glamorgan)	<b>WORKSOP</b> (first day of four: Essex won toss; Essex have scored 319 for four wickets against Nottinghamshire)
<b>NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings</b>	<b>ESSEX: First Innings</b>
D J Roberts c Shaw b 14	P J Pridmore c Noon b 45
R J Warren c Shaw b 4	D D J Robinson c Aftab b 40
A Pugh c Shaw b 4	T P Hodgson c Aftab b 44
H J Bailey c Johnson b 20	S G Law c Noon b 115
N M Curran not out 159	A P Grayson not out 35
D J G Salter c Mores b 22	R J Law not out 13
R J Taylor c Shaw b 28	Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 0) 2
M J Davies not out 6	Total (4 wickets, 101 overs) 319
Extras (b 4, nb 2) 6	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-84, 2-101, 3-194, 4-238
Total (6 wickets, 92 overs) 332	<b>BOWLING: Dean 14-6-51-1, Evans 14-6-28-1, Taylor 10-5-54-0, Brown 18-4-56-0, Aftab 15-4-29-1, Aftab 15-4-29-1, Duffin 10-4-20-0</b>
<b>BOWLING: J S Brown 22-6-47-0, Hewitt 15-2-50-0, Kallis 18-6-54-1, Johnson 17-3-45-2, Duffin 12-3-23-0, Wicket 9-3-21-0</b>	<b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: M P Downard, R T Robinson, J A Aftab, A Aftab, P Johnson, U Aftab, C M Tiley, W M Noon, K P Evans, M M Brown, A R Oram</b>
<b>BONUS POINTS: Glamorgan 3 Northamptonshire 3</b>	<b>BONUS POINTS: Nottinghamshire 1 Essex 3</b>
<b>Umpires: G I Burgess and A Clark</b>	<b>Umpires: J C Balderson and B J Meyer</b>

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## **Michael Henderson pays his tribute to a popular, diplomatic and successful leader**

It seems a good time, therefore, to praise Taylor for the contribution he has made to Australian cricket and to the game in general. He inherited a good side from Allan Border and has helped it to develop into a very good one. Waugh, if it is to be Waugh, will preside over a team that really

Australia have drawn only five of the 32 Tests they have played under Taylor: three were rain-affected and the other two were his first couple, on the slow pitches of Pakistan. Under him, Australia have aspired to be the best and have proved it by playing attractive cricket without behaving improperly. The measure of their success defines the significance of his.



**BY SARAH POTTER**

Denise Reid, the left-handed pinch-hitter, fell for only three and Terblanche was bowled by Taylor attempting an ugly leg-side slog, betraying early panic. Only Linda Olivier seemed happy in the middle — her 57 came off 83 balls — but her dismissal, run out after an arrowing throw from Leng,

## SCOREBOARD

## SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA		
L Oliver run out	57	
D Field bow to Rader	3	
M Davies out	1	
H Davies out	8	
L Hain run out	1	
A Burger to a b Smith	1	
R Kock to a b Lang	1	
R Kock to a b Lang	1	
C Erasmus to Taylor to Reynolds	71	
C Erasmus to Taylor to Reynolds	1	
S Barnes to b 1, w 6, r 10	1	
Total (all out)	134	
WICKETS: 1-16, 2-22, 3-75, 4-86, 5-100, 6-100, 7-100, 8-100, 9-100, 10-100		
<b>BOWLING:</b> Taylor 61-3-59; Rader 55-16-1; Smith 16-1-15; Connor 10-1-22; Rader 10-1-22; Rader 10-1-22; Rader 10-1-22		
ENGLAND		
C Edwards to Rader	4	
C Edwards to Rader	3	
B A Darnley run out	1	
J F Micklethorn run out	49	
Bones to b 1, w 4, r 10	10	
Bones to b 1, w 4, r 10	10	
Total (all out)	135	
WICKETS: 1-16, 2-23, 3-102, 4-102, 5-102, 6-102, 7-102, 8-102, 9-102, 10-102		
<b>BOWLING:</b> Kock 1-2-43; Connor 10-5-24; Rader 10-5-24; Rader 10-5-24; Rader 10-5-24; Rader 10-5-24; Rader 10-5-24; Rader 10-5-24; Rader 10-5-24		
Umpires: V Gibson and A Roberts		

Barbara Daniels steadied any jangling nerves by scoring a brisk yet composed 53 and Plimmer chipped in with 16, before the reliable Metcalfe saw England home with an undefeated 49, with 9.3 overs to spare.

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN DUBLIN

Having missed the cut in the past five tournaments he has entered here and, with his mind filled with details concerning the Ryder Cup, it would not have been a surprise if Ballesteros had been as edgy as he was in Dubai in February, in New Orleans in March, at the Masters in April, at the Volvo PGA in May or at the Irish Open at the beginning of July.

Karrie Webb, of Australia, who won the Wecetabix Women's British Open for the second time in three years last week with a record score, is a strong favourite to follow that success with victory in the Compaq Open, which begins at Osterakers, Stockholm, today.

One can surmise that what Ballesteros means is that if he has to select two players from Olazábal, Faldo and Parnevik, it will be Parnevik who will be left out. This would be an eleventh successive Ryder Cup for Faldo. If Olazábal gets into the team by qualification, then Ballesteros will select Faldo and Parnevik.

"I expect some changes in the points list in the next two weeks," Ballesteros said. "but I have already made up my mind. It is not a dilemma, it is very easy." So far, so good. At least Ballesteros will be deci-

The United States team is formidable. If the selection of that team is what has brought Ballesteros such peace of mind at a time when everyone expected him to be racking his brains, then hurray for that.

**BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT**

by the Swansea board today. "We were very upset at the way Northampton went about things originally," Baden Evans, the Welsh club's director of rugby, said after an unofficial approach had been made to Gibbs, "but they have

Northampton, who have signed Andrew Blyth, the England A centre, from Newcastle, have four 1997 Lions in their back division and one of 1993 vintage, Ian Hunter. Now that they are assured of the services as director of rugby of Ian McGeechan, his coaching may act as a lure for players such as Gibbs, who have already come under his influence on tour with the Lions.

Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, has confirmed his move from Watsonians to Dundee HSFP, of the second division. He will join another Lions forward, Tom Smith, and Stewart Campbell at Dundee.

By ROBERT SHEPHERD, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer West	North-South game	IMPs
-------------	------------------	------

♠AKQ8  
 ♥1098  
 ♦AQ8  
 ♣K94

♠104  
 ♥AKJ84  
 ♦KJ74  
 ♣32

♠Q852  
 ♥3  
 ♦8652  
 ♣J1087

Showing little sign of painedecelerator played low from dummyn on the spade lead. East won the queen and switched to the three of hearts. Declarer correctly fascinated with the six leaving him with the ace and started with Q76 alone and started won with the jack. What should he play now?

Kirby could see declarer was likely to have at least a jack of clubs along with the jack of spades and the queen of hearts for his advance to Three No-Trumps. So the question was, should he try to cash hearts or should he attack diamonds? He judged well to do the latter, and in addition found the correct play of the jack. Declarer finessed the queen and East encouraged with the six. Now when the clubs didn't divide declarer had to try to set up a trick in

By RAYMOND KERNE

White: James Flaskett  
Black: Luke McShane  
Mind Sports Olympiad  
Sicilian Defence

1	a4	c5
2	N13	d6
3	d4	cd4
4	Nd4	N6
5	a5	b6
6	Bg5	a5
7	Oc2	h6
8	Bd6	Ocd5
9	f4	g5
10	g3	g5
11	g4	Ch4+
12	Nd2	Nd2
13	N3	Ch5
14	K12	c5
15	Ba2	Bc5+
16	Ke1	d4
17	Nd1	Bd7
18	N12	0-0-0
19	h4	
20	Ne5	Oe8
21	Ncd3	Bb6
22	B3	Nf7
23	B3	Ba6
24	Oc2	Nd5
25	Pg1	Pf5
26	Pf6	Qg6
27	Bxd5	Bxd5
28	Kd2	Qg3
29	Rf1	Oc3+
30	Ke1	Bg2
31	Pg1	B3
32	Che3	cb3
33	Nh1	a2
34	Nh2	Pd3

White resigns

### Diagram of final position

## Oriental Chess

Meanwhile, after six rounds of the Japanese Chess (Shogi) section, top scores are:

**Overall medals table**

	G	S	B
England	2	3	3
Barbados	1	0	0
United States	1	0	0
Ireland	0	1	0
Scotland	0	0	1

## Times book

**The Times Winning Moves** contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.95 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes:

chess Monday to Friday  
Sport and in the Week  
section on Saturday.

**By Philip Howard**

**FANK** . . .  
a. A job  
b. A coward  
c. A noose

**GUERISON**  
a. Cure  
b. A gift  
c. A garrison

**FORGAR**  
a. A foreguard  
b. A seagull  
c. To lose

**GALIPOT**  
a. A small saucepan  
b. Resin  
c. A bumboat

**Answers on page 42**

**By Raymond Keene**

White to play. This position is from the game Spassky — Petrosian, USSR 1967.

In this complex position the white king could become vulnerable but the black king is also very constricted. How did White swiftly capitalise?

**Solution on page 42**

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# Is it a documentary, or is it a blatant plug?

At last, the waitings over. Just a few more paragraphs to go before you finally see our much-awaited review of Oasis: Right Here Right Now (BBC). It is published here this morning to coincide with today's release of Oasis's third album, *Definitely, Definitely*. Here Now, which has been so spectacularly overhyped (the songs, not the release, Shame on you), can't bear to wait. Okay, here's a little, appetizingly tasteful, pointed for too blackly.

Wow! Yes, those are just a few of the catchy, humming words, heavily with knowing 1960s references, that will be in the review, which I repeat - went on sale for the very first time today. The tabloids failed to beg or steal their way into a sneak preview. We even said no to the Virgin Megastore and to HMV - let alone Radio Times - which all pleaded to be allowed to feature snippets of the review on their in-store radio

stations or in their pages, but we didn't want to dilute the impact. We haven't typed it up properly yet, we explained, although many people misheard that as "We haven't typed it up properly yet." So here goes... OK, it's coming right now. Ready? Here it comes.

Wow! I mean what more can you say about a bunch of guys who have stuck two fingers up to the stifling world of bourgeois conformity, an attitude underlined in the very opening scene of the film when they climb into that age-old symbol of youthful rebellion: their private jet. Oasis has every reason to be pleased with what Mike Connolly, the director, and Mark Cooper, the executive producer, showed us last night. Reviewers were not allowed videotapes, but were summoned instead to a special screening at a West End cinema last week, so that we could better

appreciate the quality of the film and sound (Why?). The millions who watched it at home won't have had this advantage.

The documentary is lovingly made. Connolly's direction frames Liam and Noel Gallagher in poses that have the mood of studio portraits about them. If it all verges on the flattering, this is because Connolly was striving for a handsome film, not because he was in Oasis's pocket. The BBC was given editorial freedom - though Cooper and Connolly won't mind if Oasis are pleased enough with the result to turn to the same team of filmmakers when the band's fourth album is heading for the shops.

The general message? That the bad boys of rock 'n' roll have been painted far too blackly by Britain's tabloids. Instead of the boorish Liam who is so inarticulate that he communicates in hand signals, we

views with Liam and Noel, the impression you are left with is that those boorish tabloids have got the stories all wrong. Have they?

Nor is the behind-the-scenes picture so full that we get to see either of the famous Mrs Gallaghers. OK, the documentary-makers wanted to concentrate on the music. But they filmed only three songs. Not many - though enough to prove that Liam has a great voice for rock 'n' roll. We saw just how great when he deserted Oasis when they appeared on MTV: Noel's solo performance at the microphone exposed how samey many of Noel's songs sound without Liam's vocal punch. And for such a rounded picture, this film lacks glimpses of the plonker we know Liam can be being an outrageous prankster is what makes him a mesmerising star.

Noel comes across as talented and ambitious, though his conversation lacks the fluent, tart one-

liners of his hero, John Lennon. He also has a lion-tamer's touch when it comes to whip-cracking his kid brother into his place.

Liam and Noel, the two most important rock 'n' roll bands in the world... how could I not have fun? I've got a load of money... What am I going to do, sit at home and clip my toenails? You've got to go out and get it."

Which is about all that Liam and Gill Neville are likely to have in common. The search for fun can take queer turns. Neville, the heart-warming subject of *The Day That Changed My Life* (BBC2), was a model at 18. At 32 she was running her own agency. She had ticked off most of life's checklist of glamorous goals. Then, in 1999, she fell in love with an Australian

vet. A few months later she was married and living on his 240-acre beef farm in Dubbo, New South Wales, 250 miles from Sydney.

Her family and friends couldn't believe that Gill could be happier showing her first up a cow than schmoozing in the big city. But, as Liam would say, she's mad for it. "I've only been back home once since we got married. There were grey skies, I caught a cold and got shingles. It was a great relief to get back to Australia."

There was another object lesson on *TW Time Machine* (BBC). Having trawled *Tomorrow's World's* archives, Maggie Philbin asked us: "What do a squash-ball warmer, a centrally heated ski pole and a fishing rod that glows in the dark have in common? Well, we backed them all as winners." How tricky is it to predict what will last and what won't, however good it sounds at the time. Somebody warn Liam.

## REVIEW

Joe Joseph

are shown a Liam who is an artist trying to get on with his life and his music. Cooper and Connolly wanted to round out the picture. But have they tipped back the scales too far? We see a volley of tabloid headlines about the band's early behaviour, unaccompanied by any judgmental commentary. But when such shots are intercut with sedate, unprovocative inter-

- BBC**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (13179)
  - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (50266)
  - 8.00am Breakfast News Extra (1) (502044)
  - 9.20am Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (5001334)
  - 9.50am Esther: An orphan becoming more aggressive? (1) (5097421)
  - 10.20am Put it to the Test (5084792)
  - 10.45am News: Regional News (1) and weather (7446955)
  - 10.50am Cricket: Sixth Test - England v Australia - Continue on BBC2 (5045541)
  - 12.30pm Neighbours (1) (185571)
  - 1.00pm News (1) and weather (53333)
  - 1.30pm Regional News (1) (5097228)
  - 1.40pm Cricket: Sixth Test - England v Australia - Continue on BBC2 (5045541)
  - 4.00pm Pops (502515) 4.10pm Doreen (1) (323072) 4.35pm Cartoon Critics (1) (509066) 5.00pm Newsround (1) (2434967) 5.10pm Byker Grove (1) (3235773)
  - 5.35pm Neighbours (1) (185571)
  - 6.00pm News (1) and weather (504)
  - 6.30pm Regional News Magazine (1) (504)
  - 7.00pm Watchdog: Value for Money: Venues. Fritz sees how for (for) a million a Victorian bedroom (1) (5097228)
  - 7.30pm EastEnders: Sixties and now. What Titany hears. Phil and Kathy are to accompany them on their break to Paris (1) (5097228)
  - 8.00pm X-Files: Camera follows Manchester's Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit as they attempt to cut down on the city's 95,000 annual automobile offences (1) (3235773)
  - 8.30pm Pops (502515) 8.40pm Newsround (1) (2434967) 8.50pm Byker Grove (1) (3235773)
  - 9.00pm News: Regional News (1) and weather (7446955)
  - 9.30pm 600 International: Heroic stories introduced by Michael Buerk and Julie Morris, including a diver who saves a sinking ship, a group of travel agents whose plane crash-landed, and a man trapped under the ice of a frozen lake (1) (3235773)
  - 10.25pm Making Babies: Tanya and Ray's Story. The stars of the first series return to update viewers on their quest for an embryo, illustrating the pressures and strains of the treatment and its effect on their relationship (1) (3235773)
  - 10.55pm BBC Presents: 97 Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet. Overture and Rimsky-Korsakov's Scherzando performed by Russia's Kirov Orchestra, conducted by Valery Gergiev (5045541)
  - 12.15pm Advance to the Rear (1984) b/w with Glenn Ford, Melvyn Douglas and Joan Blondell. A gang of misfits are moved from the fighting during the American Civil War and get involved in various adventures, including saving a gold shipment and capturing a rebel spy. Directed by George Marshall (17852)
  - 1.45pm Weather (5400099)

- 6.00am Open University: Plant Growth Regulation (7998191) 6.25pm Regulation of Flowering (8243068) 6.50pm Patterns in Green (5092150)
- 7.15pm See Hear Breakfast News (1) (5097421)
- 7.30pm Teletubbies (1) (4243383) 7.55pm Brum (1) (1431841) 8.10pm Rescuers (1) (1547518) 8.35pm Get Your Own Back (1) (5040494) 8.50pm Spidey (1) (7841159) 9.35pm Glad Rags (1) (5097421) 10.05pm Smurfs: Adventures (1) (5097421) 10.25pm Ode Dots (1) (4228888) 10.35pm Spider (1) (2947752) 10.45pm Teletubbies (1) (161044)
- 11.15pm Asahi with Colour (188857)
- 11.45pm Valley Through the Seasons (793473)
- 12.30pm Cricket: Sixth Test. The final half-hour before lunch (1844933)
- 1.00pm Today's Gourmet (1) (188857) 1.40pm Blockbusters (5097421) 2.05pm World Classics (1) (188857) 3.00pm News (1) (2241605) 3.05pm Modern Times (1) (4228888) 3.35pm News (1) (788773)
- 4.00pm Cricket: Sixth Test. England v Australia. Bell by ball coverage with the close of play (5097421)
- 6.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. A Caraccian outpost is destroyed by Klingons (1) (4228888)
- 7.10pm The Car's the Star. The International success of the Land Rover (1) (1844933)
- 7.30pm London: New series. Mark Urban presents infectious on-farm events in history. Beginning with Michael Portillo, recounting Benjamin Disraeli's turbulent rise to power, the conflict between India and Pakistan comes under scrutiny, and day trippers overlook the South of England with that of a power bank holiday (150)
- 8.00pm Wild. Harvest. A film. Naim Traditional Borden cuisine (1) (5097421)
- 8.30pm Wildlife Showcase. Caracaras journey into the Alps to shoot footage of marmots (17852)
- 9.00pm Third Rock from the Sun. Harry is mistaken for an environmental activist (1) (447384)
- 9.35pm Flightpaths to the Gods. The archaeologist Dr Tony Spawforth investigates the Nazca Desert of Peru (1) (447384)
- 10.15pm Building Rights (5097421)
- 10.30pm Newsnight (1) (543815)
- 11.15pm Cricket: Sixth Test Highlights (523266)
- 12.00pm Weather (4060657)
- 12.05pm Playhouse (5422483)
- 1.00pm Autism (14731) 1.30pm Me - a Student? (40280) 2.00pm Music: Maestro Essentials (10613) 4.00pm Languages (74483) 5.00pm Business and Work (5422483)

- 6.00am GMTV (748177)
- 9.25pm Win, Lose or Draw (1) (509773)
- 9.55pm Judge Judy (1) (509773)
- 10.20pm News (1) (755247)
- 10.25pm Regional News (1) (509773)
- 10.30pm The Bridal Path (1985) with Bill Travers and Bernadette O'Farrell. Comic tale about a Scottish islander traveling to the mainland to find a wife. Directed by Frank Launder (5171421)
- 12.20pm Regional News (1) (4361421)
- 12.30pm News (1) and weather (1858808)
- 12.55pm Shortland Street (184559) 1.25pm Home and Away (1) (1858808) 1.50pm Murder, She Wrote (1) (509773) 2.00pm Cat Crazy (1) (781711)
- 3.20pm News (1) (225895)
- 3.25pm Regional News (1) (225793)
- 3.30pm Potamus Park (1) (509773) 3.40pm Thump Up (509773) 4.15pm Transylvania Pet Shop (1) (509773) 4.40pm Rabbit. Last in series (1) (225793)
- 5.10pm A Country Practice (2380792)
- 5.40pm News (1) and weather (443641)
- 6.00pm Home and Away (1) (227266)
- 6.25pm The West Tonight (1) (509773)
- 7.00pm Emeraldale. Lord Alex ties the knot (1) (1002)
- 7.30pm Blues and Two. The Royal New search-and-rescue workers, based at Cuddres (1) (1002)
- 8.00pm The Bill. Tensions rise between Vic and Sam as they search for a violent man and his long-suffering wife before a vicious drug dealer with a score to settle gets to them first (1) (7402)
- 8.30pm Do-It-Yourself. Mr Bean. Chadwick comedy with the bumbling Mr Bean, alias Rowan Atkinson (1) (509773)
- 9.00pm The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Simisola. Wordford makes a breakthrough, but as the pieces start falling into place, he realises there's one final mystery to be solved before investigations can be concluded (3/5) (1) (2421)
- 10.00pm News (1) and weather (47976)
- 10.30pm Regional News (1) (281711)
- 10.40pm West Eye View. Do claims offered by a network marketing claim match reality? (509773)
- 11.15pm On the Waterfront. Live music from around the Bristol Docks (2/5) (79376)
- 11.45pm New York News (404792)
- 12.35pm The LADS (1) (7752193) 1.10pm Emergency! (3982919) 1.40pm Planet Rock Profiles (509773) 2.10pm Late and Loud (1) (509773) 2.30pm The Good Sex Guide (1) (509773) 2.55pm Phenomena (22381532) 3.25pm The Place (1) (70100261) 3.50pm The Pulse (93342) 4.30pm News (51193)

- As HTV West except:
- 10.30am Film: The Death of the Incredible Hulk (5171421)
- 12.35pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (1834569)
- 1.50pm Cat Crazy (509773)
- 2.20-3.20pm Hart to Hart (509773)
- 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (2380792)
- 10.40pm Film: Police Academy III (509773)
- 12.05pm Hitchcock Presents (509773)
- 1.10pm Planet Rock Profiles (509773)
- 1.40pm Rockman (788025)
- 2.10pm Planet Rock Profiles (509773)
- 2.40pm Goli (4319251)
- 3.30pm Late and Loud (12261)
- 4.30pm Sound Bites (509773)
- 4.35pm Central Jobfinder '97 (1248483)
- 5.20pm Asian Eye (501420)
- As HTV West except:
- 10.30am Film: Murder by the Book (5171421)
- 12.30pm-12.35pm Illustrations (4361421)
- 12.55pm Home and Away (509773)
- 1.50pm Emeraldale (1044044)
- 1.50pm Cat Crazy (509773)
- 2.20-3.20pm Blue Healers (509773)
- 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (2380792)
- 6.00-7.00pm Westcountry News (18106)
- 10.30pm Westcountry News (272063)
- 10.45pm All the World's a Stage (509773)
- 11.15pm Cad's Quest (509773)
- 11.45pm Prisoner: Call Block H (404792)
- As HTV West except:
- 10.30am Cartoon Time (2642247) 10.40pm David the Gnome (3452266) 11.05pm Cartoon Time (4322266) 11.25pm BraveStar (4304888) 11.50pm Dinosaur (509773) 12.55-1.25pm A Country Practice (1834569) 1.50pm Cat Crazy (509773) 2.20-3.20pm Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (509773) 3.10-4.10pm Shortland Street (2380792) 4.35-5.00pm What's On (185857) 10.45pm The Magic and Mystery Show (509773) 11.15-11.45pm Cover Story (509773)
- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (51719) 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (5214576) 9.05pm Saved by the Bell (7843518) 9.35pm Alex Mack (509773) 10.05pm Sister, Sister (7925570) 10.35pm The Crystal Maze (3859268) 11.35pm The Big Breakfast (509773) 12.05pm California Dreamin' (7000955) 12.30pm Rick Lake (54131) 1.00pm Star Meltdown (509773) 1.15pm What's On (509773) 1.30pm Holiday (3599569) 1.50pm Vertical Hold (4338484) 2.00pm Racing from York (9334) 4.00pm Switched (605) 4.30pm The Living Sex (589) 5.00pm Home Improvement (589) 5.30pm Confidential (51) 6.05pm News (509773) 6.30pm Holbein (10537) 7.00pm Pops (509773) 7.25pm Glee (509773) 8.00pm D.I. Drol (5044) 8.30pm Newyddion (4179) 9.00pm The Jewel in the Crown (5173) 10.00pm Film: Play Dirty (25615828) 12.00pm Citizen's Arrest (504356) 12.40pm Film: Citizen's Arrest (504356)

- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (51719)
- 7.00pm The Big Breakfast with 9.05pm Saved by the Bell (1) (7) 9.35pm Alex Mack 10.05pm Sister, Sister (1) (7) 10.35pm The Crystal Maze (1) (7) 11.35pm The Big Breakfast (42703119)
- 12.05pm California Dreamin' (1) (7000955)
- 12.30pm Light Lunch (1) (57957)
- 1.30pm The Living Sex: The Emerald Sex. Charming three decades of aquatic exploration with John Stoneman (1) (1) (53402)
- 2.00pm Racing from York. The 2.05, 2.35, 3.10 and 3.45 races (1) (9334)
- 4.00pm Switched (1) (605) 4.30pm Countdown (1) (504555) 4.55pm Rick Lake (1) (7) (504555) 5.30pm Pet Rescue (1) (841)
- 6.00pm Boy Meets World (1) (225895)
- 6.25pm Fresh Pot (101889)
- 6.30pm Hollyoaks (1) (334)
- 7.00pm News (1) and weather (2785614)
- 7.50pm Girls, Girls, Girls. Charmaine and Geraldine talking about motherhood (155034)
- 8.00pm Time Team: Navan. Tony Robinson and the team search for evidence of the palaces of Celtic legends in Navan (1) (7) (7559)
- 8.00pm Film: Fire. The first film in a new, six-part series. The Serpent: a dream-based fantasy with Nicholas Farrell (1) (429880)
- 8.45pm Pond Life: Boyfriend Animation (1) (1) (509773)
- 10.00pm Whose Line is it Anyway? Improvised humour. The guests include George Wendt, who played Norm in Cheers (1) (15518)
- 10.30pm Black Widow (1987) with Debra Winger and Theresa Russell. A prim and proper Justice Department agent becomes obsessed with the deaths of two men, both of whom had both recently married. Directed by Bob Fosse (509773)
- 12.25pm For the Love of... Marine. Tropical Fish. A prim and proper aquarist discusses his hobby (2/5)
- 1.30pm Island. When US Marines invaded the Pacific island of Saipan in 1944, hundreds of Japanese civilians committed suicide (1) (1) (2358)
- 2.30pm Fifty Years of Silence. A Dutch woman in a Japanese prison camp was removed to the officers' brothel where she was repeatedly raped (1) (1) (13358)
- 3.30pm Hidden Hands: A Different History of Modernism. The Modernist movement of the French architect Le Corbusier (1) (3/4) (10803)
- 4.30pm Advice to the Lovelorn (1933) b/w. Comedy drama starring Lili Taylor. Directed by Alfred Werker (39449)
- 5.35pm Film and Video Showcase (509773)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videostar decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.2075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.30 MHz.
- 6.00am 5 News Early (7477228)
- 7.30pm World: Whose Health? Dr Mark Porter looks at the issues raised by the treatment of facial disfigurement (8/10) (513518)
- 8.00pm Havalakso (509773) 8.30pm Welshpool (509773) 9.00pm Wind in the Willows (509773) 9.30pm Sticks Around (726771)
- 10.00pm Exclusive (1) (509773)
- 10.30pm Instant Gardens (1) (238824)
- 11.00pm Lunch Chat (2785614)
- 11.50pm Double Espresso (3336534)
- 12.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful. Los Angeles-based soap (1) (252978)
- 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (3465529) 1.00pm 5 News Update (2275995) 1.05pm Sunset Beach. Sun, sand and sea songs (1) (1478131) 2.00pm 5's Company. Live entertainment show (509773)
- 3.30pm Babyloose (1993) starring Ricki Lake and Craig Sheffer. A romantic comedy about an over-the-hill attorney who falls for a trier. Directed by Paul Schneider (509773)
- 5.30pm 5's Company. Late Extra (509773)
- 6.30pm 100 Per Cent (509773)
- 6.00pm Move on Up. Fast-moving game show (509773)
- 6.30pm Family Affairs. Nick and Chris compete for the same job (509773)
- 7.00pm Exclusive. Showbiz gossip (509773)
- 7.30pm Animal Cops. Animal Officers. The wildlife of the Sargasso Sea (1) (509773)
- 8.00pm The Car Show presented by Trietram Payne and Marlene Frosrup (509773)
- 8.30pm 5 News (4088060)
- 9.00pm Spacehunter: Adventures in the Forbidden Zone (1993) A science fiction adventure starring George Strait and Molly Ringwald. Directed by Lamont Johnson (1) (3774247)
- 10.40pm Not the Jack Docherty Show. Chat and comedy (509773)
- 11.35pm Prisoner: Call Block H (2464334)
- 12.30pm Live and Dangerous. Sports magazine presented by Dominik Diamond and Shelley Webb. Includes football action from both Brazil and the United States (2275995)
- 4.30pm The Streets of San Francisco. Police drama series starring Karl Malden (1) (509773)
- 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (1) (5122183)

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode.**

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your VCR to record a programme automatically. To find the Video PlusCode for a programme, look for the Video PlusCode (VPC) number in the programme listing. The Video PlusCode is a four-digit number which is printed on the back of the programme listing card. To find the Video PlusCode for a programme, look for the Video PlusCode (VPC) number in the programme listing. The Video PlusCode is a four-digit number which is printed on the back of the programme listing card.

**Names Desert Investigated (8.25pm)**

Flightpaths to the Gods. The archaeologist Dr Tony Spawforth investigates the Nazca Desert of Peru (1) (447384)

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For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday.

## SKY 1

- 6.00am Morning Glory (509773) 9.00pm Rags and Riches (1) (509773) 10.00pm World (509773) 11.00pm Day of Our Lives (509773) 12.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 1.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 2.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 3.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 4.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 5.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 6.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 7.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 8.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 9.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 10.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 11.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042) 12.00pm Oprah Winfrey (71042)

**SKY MOVIES GOLD**

6.00pm The Road to Hong Kong (1982) 8.00pm The Road to Hong Kong (1982) 10.00pm The Road to Hong Kong (1982) 12.00pm The Road to Hong Kong (1982) 2.00pm The Road to Hong Kong (1982) 4.00pm The Road to Hong Kong (1982) 6.00pm The Road to Hong Kong (1982) 8.00pm The Road to Hong Kong (1982) 10.00pm The Road to Hong Kong (1982) 12.00pm The Road to Hong Kong (1982)

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## SKY 2

- 7.00pm Superboy (509773) 7.30pm Superboy (509773) 8.00pm Superboy (509773) 8.30pm Superboy (509773) 9.00pm Superboy (509773) 9.30pm Superboy (509773) 10.00pm Superboy (509773) 10.30pm Superboy (509773) 11.00pm Superboy (509773) 11.30pm Superboy (509773) 12.00pm Superboy (509773)

## SKY NEWS

- Worldwide news coverage, with headlines on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## SKY MOVIES

- 6.00pm The Stone Boy (1984) (52358) 8.00pm The Stone Boy (1984) (52358) 10.00pm The Stone Boy (1984) (52358) 12.00pm The Stone Boy (1984) (52358) 2.00pm The Stone Boy (1984) (52358) 4.00pm The Stone Boy (1984) (52358) 6.00pm The Stone Boy (1984) (52358) 8.00pm The Stone Boy (1984) (52358) 10.00pm The Stone Boy (1984) (52358) 12.00pm The Stone Boy (1984) (52358)

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## THE MOVIE CHANNEL

- 6.00pm White of Ashes (1984) (52358) 8.00pm White of Ashes (1984) (52358) 10.00pm White of Ashes (1984) (52358) 12.00pm White of Ashes (1984) (52358) 2.00pm White of Ashes (1984) (52358) 4.00pm White of Ashes (1984) (52358) 6.00pm White of Ashes (1984) (52358) 8.00pm White of Ashes (1984) (52358) 10.00pm White of Ashes (1984) (52358) 12.00pm White of Ashes (1984) (52358)

## SKY SPORTS 1





## FOOTBALL 30

Pick a winning side and win up to £50,000

# SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

## SWIMMING 42

Men's relay team claims gold medal for Britain



Coach pre-empts RFU committee's decision by announcing his departure

# Rowell ends England reign

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH rugby union, which has not been short of crises in recent months, found itself in another yesterday when Jack Rowell, the national coach, resigned from his position. His decision to do so was made public at the same time as the Rugby Football Union national playing committee was meeting to decide whether to renew his contract at the end of this month.

Rowell's announcement, after three years in charge during which England reached the semi-finals of the 1995 World Cup and won in three seasons a five nations grand slam, championship and triple crown, has been hastened by the RFU's clumsy handling of the issue. He was incensed to discover an approach had been made to Graham Henry, coach of the Auckland Blues, last month and last weekend there was public criticism of him and his chosen captain, Phil de Glanville, by Fran Cotton.

Cotton, vice-chairman (playing) of the RFU management board, was reported in a newspaper article as saying that Ian McGeechan was the only option as full-time coach and, failing that, Rowell as a part-time coach was the only alternative. Rowell, who

### CAREER

ENGLAND: Honours: 1995: five nations grand slam; fourth place in World Cup 1996: five nations' championship and a triple crown. Record: P 29 W 21 L 8 F 811 A 506.

BATH (1979-1994): Courage Club Championship: 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994. John Player Cup: 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987. Pilkington Cup: 1989, 1990, 1992, 1994.

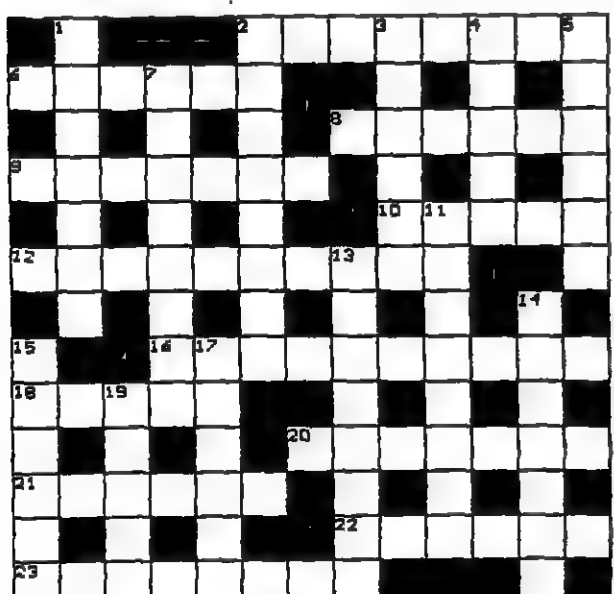
refuses to consider a full-time role because of his extensive business interests, could not help but perceive an absence of support for his continuation to the 1999 World Cup and timed to perfection his riposte. The playing committee.



Rowell confers with his England players at Twickenham

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1178 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



### ACROSS

- 2 Vexed, chivvied (8)
- 6 Group of friends; part of theatre (6)
- 8 Leafy bower (6)
- 9 Forsake (7)
- 10 More than enough (5)
- 12 Rejecting company (10)
- 16 Cut of meat; type of whisker (6,4)
- 18 Weighed down (5)
- 20 Uneasy feeling (7)
- 21 Pardonable offence (6)
- 22 Ship's boat; knife? (4)
- 23 Ability to figure (8)

### DOWN

- 1 30s dance orchestra (3,4)
- 3 One living for pleasure (8)
- 4 Signal receiver (6)
- 5 Bend; sounds like holy water basin (5)
- 7 Lyme Regis county (6)
- 9 A clear soup (8)
- 11 Trader (8)
- 13 Tendency to float (8)
- 14 Trading ship; mat for glass (7)
- 15 Divided (hood) (6)
- 17 Inequitable (6)
- 19 Hard-wearing fabric (5)

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All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 1177  
ACROSS: 1 Dead/beat 5 Weed 9 Kaput 10 Crumple 11 Acronym 12 Belle 13 Leftovers 18 Leapt 20 Anthrax 22 Zamboni 23 Boats 24 Rums 25 Unneeded  
DOWN: 1 Diktat 2 Apparet 3 Balon 4 Accommodation 6 Explet 7 Deeper 8 Bubble 14 Filter 15 Served 16 Blazer 17 Extend 19 Anaman 21 Table

under the chairmanship of Bill Beaumont, whose deliberations have not been made easier by Cotton's comments or by the publicity accorded to the research into possible alternatives made by Don Rutherford, the RFU director of rugby, was informed of Rowell's withdrawal after it had been meeting for an hour yesterday afternoon at the East India Club in London.

Rowell chose to announce his decision via the Press Association rather than direct to a committee that, sources say, met with a view to inviting Rowell to carry on.

"Jack being Jack took the decision clear out of our hands," a member of the committee said. "Maybe it was his idea of getting the last laugh. He has fallen on his sword but did he do it too soon?" Rowell himself was a member of the committee though he was, of course, absent. Cotton attended as an observer and now finds English rugby having to consider a series of untested individuals with only two seasons left before the World Cup. It is understood no second approach will be made to McGeechan, who withdrew from consideration on Monday after Northampton, his club, stipulated compensation of around £500,000.

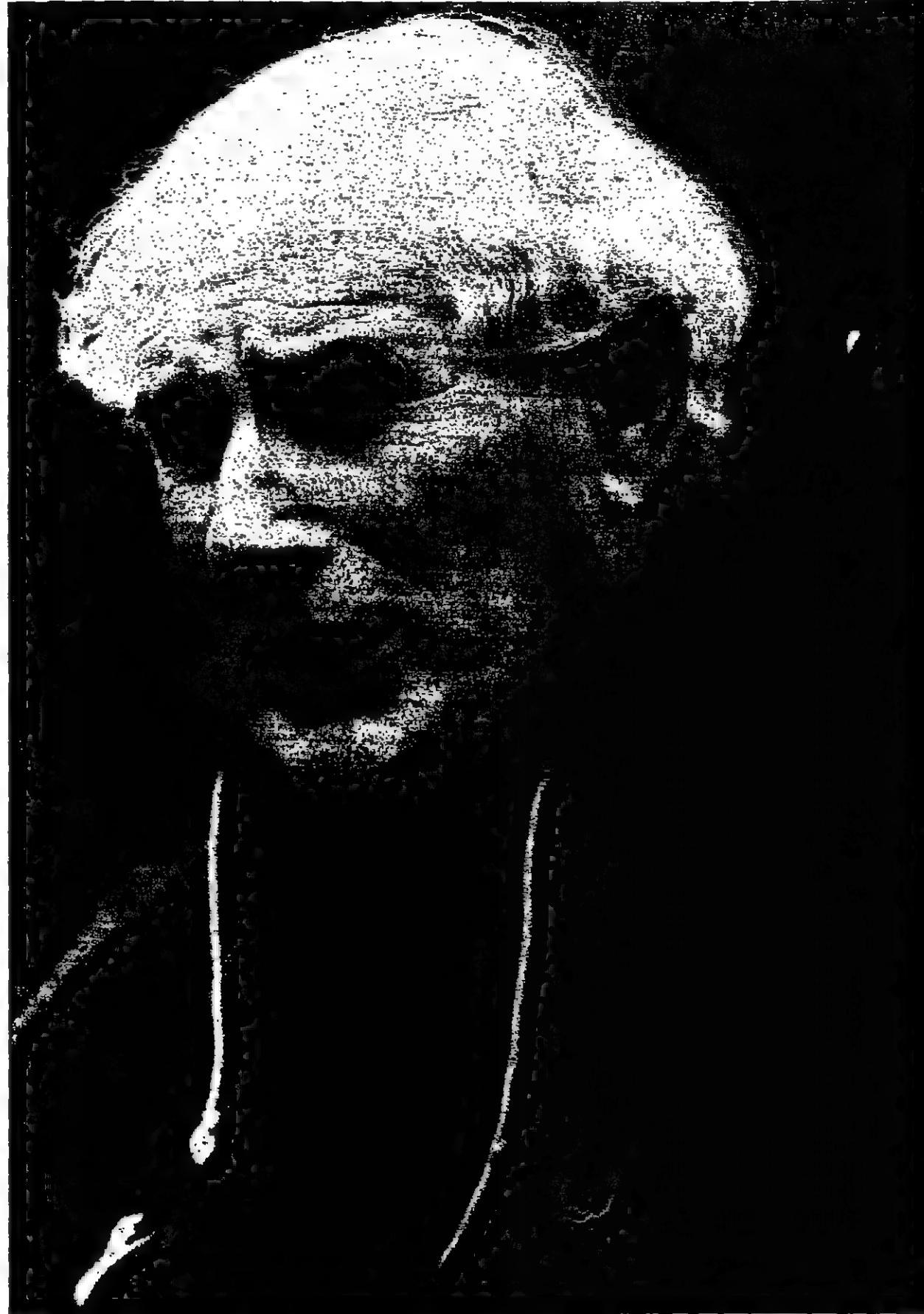
"I'm sorry that Jack has decided not to be considered further for the position of England coach," Cotton, who crossed swords with Rowell as manager of the British Isles in South Africa during the summer, said.

"He has made an immense contribution to the game and I wish him continued success in his business career."

Beaumont said that a coach was needed who could dedicate more time to the position. Recommendations are due to go before the RFU management board next Friday and may include the suggestion that Roger Uttley — coach to England during the 1991 World Cup — returns as manager.

But if they are not to pay out substantial compensation, their coaching choice is limited. Two coaches not under contract to a club are Clive Woodward, who is involved with Bath and the England under-21 team, and, ironically, Dick Best, who was dismissed by the RFU after Rowell came in as manager in 1994.

Best was replaced by Les Cusworth and Mike Slemen, both of whom are candidates for the coaching position but who share with Rowell a sense of grievance at being undermanned by their employers. Cusworth has taken up a five-year role with Worcester and Slemen may choose not to commit himself full-time. Henry, urged on by the New Zealand Rugby Football



Rowell was incensed after learning that approaches had been made to other leading coaches about the England job

Union, has agreed terms with Auckland.

Best, dismissed by Harlequins at the end of last season, said last night: "I have mixed feelings about it because I think the whole business has been handled very badly. It appears the RFU have asked all and sundry if they want the job. I was asked last February what I thought the job was worth — it's a full-time job.

involving not just the elite players but the teams lower down, and I think it's worth £250,000 a year given the intensity of the position.

"But I want to get back to track coaching, away from a desk, and I'm out of work. I would be interested if anyone approached me." As it happens, Best's successor at Harlequins, Andy Keast, is as well-qualified as many candi-

dates in England, of whom the leading names include Richard Hill and John Mitchell, both tied into long-term contracts with Gloucester and Sale respectively, the Bath duo, Andy Robinson and Woodward, Rob Smith, who coached Wasps to the league title last season, and Keith Richardson, the Newbury coach who has had extensive experience with England A.

## Plenty still at stake for England

BY ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

FOR an England player or supporter, aching for success rather than accustomed to it, there is no such thing as a dead Test match. The Ashes may be beyond recall yet again, but England's incentives in the final Test at the Oval, which starts today, are the old virtues of pride, profile and personal profit.

Pride must ensure that England do not submit so meekly as at Trent Bridge a fortnight ago. Profile demands an improvement, for the capacity crowds of this summer will not be perpetuated by constant defeat. Personal profit awaits those who can win a place in the Caribbean this winter by their performances over the next five days.

Then, of course, there is the most intriguing component of this match, the latest and decisive episode in the captaincy saga. Remarkably, we could be about to witness the simultaneous farewells from office of both Michael Atherton and Mark Taylor.

They start from distinctly different positions. Taylor wishes to continue in charge of Australia, but awaits the opinion of his selectors: Atherton already knows he has the support of selectors, players and county captains. Now he just has to convince himself that he wishes to carry on.

"There are many things to take into account," Atherton said yesterday. "I have to ask myself if I am still the right man for the job. If I have still got the same drive and enthusiasm for it, it's all for me to assess at the end of this game."

"If the team is not performing, the captain takes the flak," he said, utterly without self-pity. "I don't shy away from that and never have done. It comes with the territory. If a captain comes to the stage where he doesn't have the support of his dressing-room, it is clearly time to stand aside. I don't feel I have reached that point."

Atherton's mind would certainly be cleared by a performance more representative of England's potential than the bad habits into which they have declined during the past month. He could help,

this morning, by winning the toss for the first time in the series.

The latest reshuffle of the batting order — and its extension, with Adam Hobbie now at No 7 — is designed to produce the more competitive totals that England crave, but cannot in itself eradicate the hot-headed sessions in which games regularly slip away from them.

As often as not, this has been the fault of indiscipline by the bowlers rather than the batsmen and England's cause is not helped by another enforced upheaval in this area. Two games ago, at Headingley, England's five bowlers were Gough, Headley, Smith, Ealham and Croft. An entirely different five will see duty today, on a pitch likely to be every bit as good as the one at Nottingham.

Headley, the one possible survivor, continues to be troubled by a bruised right heel, which means that Peter Martin will play his first Test since last June. The absence of Gough, Croft and Cork, so recently the heart and soul of the team, would have been impossible to contemplate at the start of the year. Now, however, England turn again to two men who at least know what it is to bowl the side to victory at the Oval, Phil Tufnell did it in 1991, Devon Malcolm three years later.

For Tufnell, this is a fresh opportunity to establish himself as the No 1 spin bowler — a play though it is that England have not included two in any home Test this year. For Malcolm, it will surely be a swansong, unless he can recapture one more time the spirit of 1994.

A more appealing scenario for England's future would be the belated breakthrough of Mark Ramprakash. Not many batsmen start a twentieth Test match with an average of 16, but Ramprakash is identified as a special case and his domination of county cricket explains why.

No one can prosper on potential alone, however, and this is the time for him to deliver. As Atherton said yesterday: "He has had some disappointments but he must just forget all that. He has to play for the here and now."

### TEAMS

ENGLAND (Squad): M A Atherton (capt), A Boucher, A J Stewart, N Hussain, G P Thompson, M R Ramprakash, A J Hone, A R Caddick, P J Martin, PGR Tucker, D E Malcolm, D W Headley, B C McKinnon.

AUSTRALIA: M A Taylor (capt), M T G Elliott, G S Bennett, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, R T Ponting, I A Healy, S Taylor, S K Warne, M S Kapteina, G U Moggan.

Umpires: P Willey and L Baker (West Indies); Third umpire: A E Palmer. Match referee: C W Smith (West Indies). TV TIMES: Live BBC1 10.50-12.35, BBC2 12.35-1.00, BBC1 1.40-4.00, BBC2 4.25-6.00. Highlights: BBC2 11.15-12.30.



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## Residents want £10,000 each in compensation

# Britain awaits new wave of refugees

The remaining population live in the northern third of the island, but emergency living accommodation has been condemned as inadequate, while raw sewage has been dumped in the sea and health care is scanty.

The 28-strong committee includes people from the whole gamut of political philosophy.



Detention Centre, south of Houston, and at least one guard wearing the uniform of Capital Correctional Resources Inc. (CCRI), a Texas-based corporation that runs private jails and jail wings to accommodate inmates for whom cells are not available in the state prison system.

The tape came to light as part of a \$100,000 (£62,000) lawsuit being filed against the centre by an inmate. Lawyers for the jail say they will be "fully vindicated".

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**Dr Thomas Stuttford** on paranoid personality disorder; the battle against malaria; the centenary of the aspirin; how heat affects drugs

## Delusions that turn life into a nightmare

Nicola Pagett, the actress, first became known to a wide public when she starred in the TV series *Upstairs, Downstairs*. Despite her continuing success she realises, in retrospect, that for many years she has had a manic depressive nature; more recently this has reached a stage where urgent medical attention became essential. Ms Pagett has written about her experiences, which included being sectioned (compulsory admission to a psychiatric unit) and since then has been hospitalised on two other occasions. But since Ms Pagett started taking lithium she has remained well, and has not needed hospital treatment again.

Mania and depression can produce many bizarre symptoms which in Ms Pagett's case included paranoid delusions. She was convinced that her husband, Graham, was poisoning her and was also committing incest with their daughter. No amount of reasoned argument, even evidence, was able to convince her that nothing untoward was taking place in her own home. Ms Pagett even believed that her husband was not only poisoning the water in the jug beside her bed, but had introduced poison into the tap of the main supply.

Paranoia can be a symptom of the effective disorders, commonly described as depression or mania, in which the patient's mood is altered. These patients are frequently unreasonably depressed or absurdly over-

elated. Paranoia is also a frequent symptom in the schizophrenic disorders. Press accounts have made it very obvious that the late Gordon McMaster, the Scottish Labour MP who recently committed suicide, was severely depressed, and that in his case one of its manifestations had been paranoia.

Paranoia is perhaps more difficult to diagnose when it occurs in isolation as part of a personality disorder, and when there is no evidence of other major psychiatric disease in the patient.

Before someone can be said to have a paranoid personality disorder they must show at least four of its characteristic seven features.

- The hallmarks of the paranoid personality disorder are:
- a) They must suspect, without sufficient basis, that others are exploiting or deceiving them.
  - b) The patient must be preoccupied about the loyalty and trustworthiness of friends and associates.
  - c) They must be reluctant to confide in others because they fear that any confidences they share may later be used maliciously against them.
  - d) The patients are prone to discover hidden, demeaning remarks or threats in perfectly benign comments or everyday events.
  - e) These patients bear grudges and do not easily forgive insults or slights.
  - f) The patient constantly perceives attacks on his or her character or reputation, and overreacts quickly



Nicola Pagett's delusions plunged her family into a nightmare before successful treatment with lithium

and angrily to them.

g) People with a paranoid personality disorder are often highly suspicious about the fidelity of any sexual partner.

An appraisal of colleagues in any large organisation or friends in the community or even a glance at the gossip bits in a newspaper will immediately reveal candidates for inclusion into the list of sufferers from this disorder. People with paranoid personalities tend to be

worse when they are stressed or ill, and at these times they become even more quarrelsome and suspicious.

Textbooks advise doctors that they should not expect to be trusted or liked by patients with this temperament and experience has apparently shown that they respond better to medical advice if the physician remains slightly aloof.

Patients rarely visit a doctor because they are seeking help with this personality disorder, as few

acknowledge that there is anything very much the matter with their character. If the patient's friends and family are not aware of the personality disorder they may easily be misled into supposing that mutual colleagues and acquaintances are untrustworthy and disloyal, and that the world is every bit as inhospitable as it has been represented.

© Diamonds 'Behind My Eyes' by Nicola Pagett will be published by Gallancie in September at £9.99

## Mosquitoes winning, years on

Thousands of holiday-makers and other travellers can visit malarial zones with a reasonable expectation of remaining healthy thanks to the pioneering research of Sir Ronald Ross and Sir Patrick Manson into the life cycle of the malaria parasite, whose existence had first been demonstrated in 1880.

This week, 650 scientists from all over the world have gathered in Hyderabad, south central India, to honour the memory of Ross, and to discuss the latest developments in the control of malaria.

Ross started collaborating with Manson in 1894. In 1897 — the year in which Ross produced his evidence of the life cycle of the malaria parasite and its relation to mosquitoes — Manson, who was also a proponent of the mosquito/malaria theory, became physician and adviser to the Colonial Office.

Ross's life provides a wonderful example to all those embarking on medical studies this year whose A-level results last week may have been rather disappointing. His success illustrates that there is more to being a good doctor than just having an academic brain.

Although he excelled in physics, mathematics and chemistry while at school, Ross did not show any great intellectual prowess while a student at St Bartholomew's hospital, in east London, and a career in the Indian Medical Service at that time was not usually the key to future professional fame.

But despite the lack of any evidence of early brilliance, Ross had become Professor of Tropical Medicine at Liverpool, a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Nobel prize winner for medicine while still in his early forties.

The scientists now gathered in India must wonder when they view Ross's laboratory why it is that 100 years after the historic discovery of the malaria parasite had been unravelled, the disease is still one of the world's biggest killers. The Malaria Foundation has expressed concern about the present state of control of the disease, which causes three million deaths annually, and affects some 495 million people.

Attacks, which can recur throughout one's life, weaken the sufferer, and thereby lower his or her resistance to other diseases.

Holidaymakers beware: Malarial zones are still spreading, and the parasite's resistance to drugs is increasing rapidly, largely as a result of unregulated distribution — in many parts of the world anti-malarial drugs are freely available without prescription.

Another problem is that the drugs are often used without supervision. People often feel better soon after starting treatment, and stop taking the drugs without having completed the full course. As a result, resistant strains of parasite survive, and are then transmitted on to the next person.

So far, there is no vaccine against malaria, and the very complexity of the parasite makes it difficult to produce one. Parasites are less stable than viruses and bacteria, and can change even during the course of an infection. These changes may render any vaccine ineffective. In addition, malarial parasites are 'disturbed' by the immune system.

similar enough that a vaccine which provides immunisation against one variety may not prevent an attack of malaria being brought on by another. Controlling the mosquitoes is also becoming more difficult because the insects' resistance to insecticides is increasing.

Travellers going to a possible malarial zone should consult a clinic that is equipped to offer advice about the best form of protection in the countries they intend to visit.

No drug is 100 per cent efficient, however, and anyone who develops a fever or headache, or feels as though they are suffering from an attack of flu after a visit to a country where malaria is endemic, should see a doctor to arrange blood tests.

Meanwhile, the good news is that Glaxo Wellcome is completing clinical trials of a new drug, Malarone, which is showing every sign of being a useful addition to the anti-malarial pharmacological armory. The new drug is proving helpful in the treatment of some forms of acute malaria, as well as in the prevention of all five types of the disease.

The drug — a mixture of Atovaquone, well known to most travellers, and Proguanil — is a new class of anti-malarial drug that has so far proved to be stable pharmacologically to utilise.



Bite that can bring death

Malarone is described as being 'very clean' in regard to its side-effects. Few patients taking it for prophylactic purposes complained of any adverse symptoms, while some of those — usually children — using it to treat malarial attacks experienced very occasional bouts of nausea and vomiting.

Travellers should start taking anti-malarial drugs some days before going overseas, and should continue taking them for at least four — although some would say five — weeks after their return. But anti-malarial drugs are not enough in themselves. Other protection against mosquitoes are also needed, such as netting, window screens and insect repellents. Long sleeves and trousers should be worn day and night.

Younger travellers who may feel tempted to try local varieties of cuisine should think twice: the early symptoms of malaria are not unlike the effects of being 'stuffed'. Both can cause feelings of dizziness, depression, headaches and lethargy, and so an early diagnosis of malaria can be missed.

## Pill gets to heart of the matter

WHILE in India they are celebrating the anniversary of Sir Ronald Ross's research into malaria, in Paris they are holding an exhibition to mark the centenary of the discovery of aspirin.

Aspirin was originally produced as an antipyretic to reduce fever and ease pain, but it is now used to treat or prevent a host of diseases.

Tens of thousands of people take a dose of aspirin each day because of its effect on platelet activity and its power to reduce the risk of heart attacks.

Aspirin has been used as first aid treatment after a heart attack for some years. More recently it has been suggested that it will reduce

the brain damage caused by the most common type of stroke.

And the list goes on: aspirin has also been shown to have a protective effect against cataracts, it is useful in treating some forms of recurrent miscarriage, it is valuable in the treatment of many forms of arthritis and SLE, it decreases the risk of colorectal cancer, and prevents recurrent attacks of a painful ulcerative disease, Behcet's syndrome.

Aspirin is not without side effects, including gastro-intestinal inflammation and bleeding. Many patients need to take their aspirin in a coated form, so as to reduce stomach irritation. The standard anti-heart attack dose of aspirin (75 milligrams) is available in an enteric version, Nu-seals.

## As a rule, keep drugs cool

As the temperatures have soared, patients have been reading the small print on their packets of pills and bottles of medicine to check that they won't have been ruined by not being kept at under 25-30 degrees centigrade.

Although drugs should be kept cool, all have been tested at high temperatures, and with a few exceptions a week or two's heatwave will not do any appreciable damage. Nor will a slow delivery in a stuffy van from the manufacturer to the chemist.

Most drugs are tested to have a shelf-life of five years, and only if they were kept at temperatures above 25-30 degrees centigrade for long periods of time would they degrade faster than expected.

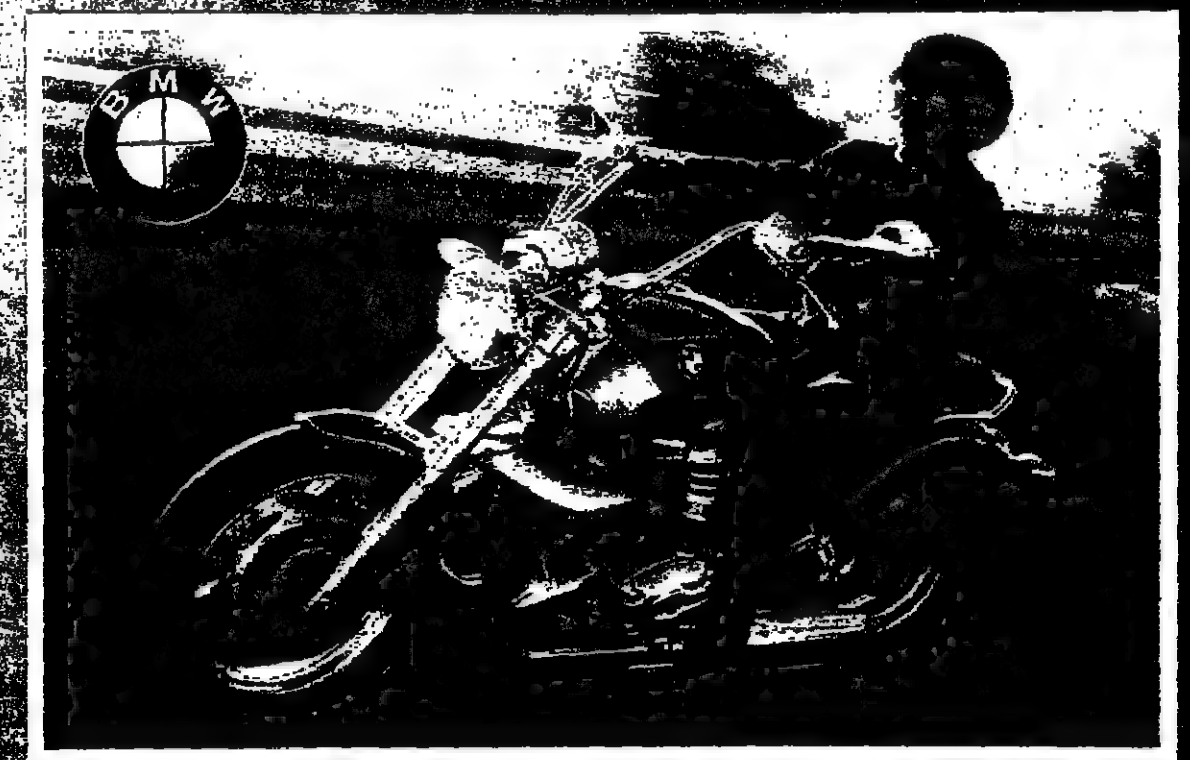
Pharmacists keep some drugs, including liquid antibiotics, insulin and vaccines, in cool, dark surroundings. These products are always transported in a cool van. One drug, glyceryl trinitrate, used to treat angina, loses its effectiveness within days when carried in a pocket.

The standard doctors' advice to patients to keep medicines out of the way of children and in the dark, and cool remains good. The refrigerator is ideal, but medicines should not be put in the ice box.

However, those who need to collect a prescription during the heatwave don't need to bankrupt themselves by taking a taxi home. Similarly, most drugs will survive for their full five years, even if this includes a few hot Augusts.

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Women and IBS is available for £3.50 from IBS Research Admin Office, Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust (Dept TB), c/o PO Box 18, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1ZY.

Please make cheques payable to IBS Research.



# A meeting of strangers



Peter Snow with Mathieu, the result of a holiday romance

Peter Snow is thrilled at discovering his "lost" son. Jason Cowley talks to Martin Amis who met his daughter last year, while Bill Frost reports on new-found relationships that do not always work out

For many thousands of years, the revelation that Peter Snow has a 33-year-old son of whom he was unaware until last month has a troubling resonance: who, at some time, has not wondered if, in a distant, blurry affair, they might have fathered a "lost child"? Mathieu, a French merchant banker, was the result of a brief holiday romance between Snow and a young Parisian journalist, Sabine, aboard a Nile cruiser. Sabine married a year after returning to Paris and chose not to tell Mathieu the truth of his origin, or Snow, about his son.

The story finds an echo in the experience of Martin Amis, who, two summers ago, received a letter from the journalist Patrick Seale, saying that Amis was the real father of his daughter, Delilah. Seale, an undergraduate at Oxford University, Amis, 43, said the letter seriously had an affair in the mid-1970s with Seale's wife, the novelist Lamorna Heath, who was estranged from her husband at the time and who later committed suicide at the age of 27. The affair, was intense but brief, Lamorna eventually returned to her husband and Amis married Antonia Phillips with whom he had two sons, Jacob and Louis.

The affair might easily have been dismissed as youthful abandon were it not for the fact that, nine months after its end, Lamorna had a daughter, who strikingly resembled



Martin Amis and Delilah Seale: "When Delilah walked into the room I felt an immediate intimacy with her, although we were strangers, and that was wonderful"

she looked and said "She's definitely your daughter." So I said "What shall I do about it?" And she said "You can't do anything about it. It's not your place to intervene."

"Every now and then I would think about her, and wonder what she was up to, how she was getting on. But, in truth, it was in my subconscious that I was worrying about her." He self-consciously switches to the second person: "And exactly where your worries come out is in your novels. As a writer, you can't get away from your preoccupations." Curiously, he never once uses Lamorna's name, referring to her simply as "her mother."

In the years of his separation from Delilah, did her absence become almost like a shadow presence? "No, it wasn't that insistent," he explains. "I mean, she would come up in my mind from time to time, and I did mention her to Isabel (Rosa, his partner and mother of his baby daughter, Fernanda), but the boys didn't know about her. I eventually told them last year. I'm glad I did — because

a few weeks later it was all over the papers." But Delilah was not told about Amis until she was 18 and only then after she had gained a place at Oxford.

When my father Patrick Seale took me out to dinner to celebrate my exam results I had no idea what he was going to reveal to me," she said. "Of course, I was shocked and felt very emotional, confused and bewildered. My first thought was: 'Where does this leave me? Am I still a part of the family I love?' Patrick had loved me and cared for me since I was born and my world revolved around him and my brother Orlando. The three of us had always been close and I needed to know that this would continue."

"I have never been angry or resentful with Martin. I never thought he abandoned me or anything like that. I had a great family already and I think he was right to leave things as they were." Amis met Delilah for the first time over dinner in cen-

tral London. "I was going to meet a complete stranger who was also my intimate and that made me very nervous," he recalled last year. "But when Delilah walked into the room I felt an immediate intimacy with her, although we were strangers, and that was wonderful."

"We got on well throughout the evening and, at the end of it, I had to fight down the urge to tell her to work hard and concentrate on her studies."

The past two years of Amis's life have been defined by trauma. There was the painfully public break-up of his marriage to Phillips; the farra-

go over his pursuit of a £500,000 publishing advance; the operation on his teeth for which he was remorselessly derided; the death of his father, Kingsley Amis; and the discovery of Delilah. All this and what he calls a "cataclysmic mid-life crisis", too.

He feels that he is over the worst, that his terror of death, which was at the root of his problems, is more controlled. "During a mid-life crisis you feel sufficed," he says, solemnly. "You are living in a land you no longer recognise. You don't know the language anymore. You feel lost. Women have a biological

change: men don't. It's a pity because the whole thing might be understood more if they did. A mid-life crisis is really about reaching an accommodation with death."

Being with Delilah has brought him great joy. They have forged what he calls a "marvellous intimacy." "I see her all the time. She has just done her finals in history at Oxford." He begins to laugh. "Listen to this: she tells me that she read *The Rachel Papers* when she was 13. I expressed surprise that she had read it so young. But she said: 'Oh, everyone reads it then, not when they're 19. It's amazing

how precocity, like technology, expands exponentially."

What is most astonishing about Amis's discovery of his lost daughter is that the clues to her existence were scattered throughout his work. As long ago as 1983 he could write, as he did in *Money*: "Should you ever find yourself in a paternity or maternity mix-up, should you ever have a child who isn't really his or isn't really hers, tell the kid... (For) how can you live seriously if you don't know who you are?" So Amis, unlike Snow who was oblivious to his illegitimate son, was already mourning her absence if only he had known it.

## 'Where have you been all my life?'

Not all new-found relationships have happy endings like that of Peter Snow. The list of reluctant celebrity dads reads like a Who's Who of stage, screen and pop music. If abandoned mothers are to be believed, the Sixties rock stars Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison were as irresponsible as they were fertile.

Even now wannabe children emerge from the woodwork, most recently a young man claiming to be the son of Paul McCartney. There are exceptions to the rule — Paula Yates is determined to disprove tabloid allegations that she is "the love child" of Hughie Green, the late game show host.

In the real world though, the most common reactions to that phone call or letter are at first shock, then anger and disbelief, and hard on their heels, panic and denial. Although most men want to be fathers, they see parenthood on their own planned terms: a brief dalliance during a cruise down the Nile or a coupling on the Costa del Sol is simply fun without responsibility.

Dale, a television cameraman, was told a few months ago that he had fathered a son 13 years ago during an affair with a waitress in Camden Town, North London. His marriage had been "on the rocks" at the time and Jan, the child's mother, was "very sad after breaking up with a longtime boyfriend". There was a relationship of mutual convenience, he thought. "We both needed someone — we were both lonely and unhappy — I assumed she was taking precautions," Dale says.

"The telephone rang one day back in March and it was Jan — to tell you the truth, at first I did not know who she was, I had forgotten that period in my life... that was a time I wanted to bury."

Jan took place while we were still married. She told me that I was never to call the house again and I couldn't see Joe anymore. If I tried to meet my son she would tell him that 'Daddy didn't love him anymore and wanted to hurt him'."

"I arranged a meeting with Bobby. Little did I realise that he had been poisoned against the dad he never knew." Dale's first meeting with Bobby at London Zoo was a nightmare, he says. "There was this truculent kid standing at the entrance with a scowl on his face. His mother told me he would be wearing a black bomber jacket and baseball cap —

Paul McCartney and Paula Yates

she never warned me about what was happening inside his head."

Bobby's first words to the father he had never met were both cruel and damning. "He said: 'Where have you been all my life... and then, have you got any cash on you?' I had wanted to put my arms around him and say sorry as best I could — after that greeting I just felt lost."

Father and resentful son met half a dozen times before Bobby told Dale that he "hated and despised" him. The boy said he could see why his mother had spoken so badly of her former lover. "I won't see him again: more to the point he won't see me. I spoke to Jan and offered money but she refused. In June I got a letter from the Child Support Agency — I suppose I must have hurt her very much."

is such a great shock for a child to discover a previously unknown parent — that child feels betrayed, feels like a fool.

"A lot of those kids grow up with a great sense of resentment and a desire for revenge against the missing parent or the parent they live with. They may leave the mother to live with the father and then go back to the mother."

The unsettling effect ripples through the father's acknowledged family too, sometimes with disastrous effects. "Imagine being told you have a brother or sister you never met — no matter how mature and well-balanced you are, that can cause intense jealousy and insecurity. We like our family pattern to be fixed and permanent. The arrival of a newcomer throws everything into doubt for the children and their mother."

Why though would the mother of a child wait so long before approaching the natural father? Perhaps she feels it is her duty to give that child a sense of his or her own history — that certainly is the most common reason.

"As to why she never told the man when she knew she was pregnant, that is the more interesting question. Perhaps she didn't want anyone else making claims on the child, perhaps she was worried about other pressures on her and her partner. For example, a lot of parents might react badly if the father of their granddaughter was a different race or colour, says Dr Rowe. While they might forgive the baby, the adult could suffer cruelly."

Possibly apocryphal, there is the story of a prominent London society figure, brought up by his mother, who spent years seeking out his real father. After discovering the man's home number at long last, he telephoned him. "I am your son," he said. The man replied with a question: "What colour are you?"

Dale does not like the story — fatherhood is no laughing matter, he says. "Okay, so I have been a bit irresponsible in the past, but now I have lost everything. If Jan had told me about Bobby before now I would have looked after him and if I hadn't told my ex-wife about him I could still be seeing Joe."

"That telephone call ruined my life. I pray no one else is ever put in the same position."

BILL FROST

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Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn denounces double standards in international morality — from Britain's bombing of Dresden to the tragedy in Yugoslavia

# The march of the hypocrites

In the Computer Age we still live by the law of the Stone Age: the man with the bigger club is right. But we pretend this isn't so. We don't notice or even suspect it — why, surely our morality progresses together with our civilisation. Professional politicians, meanwhile, have deftly covered certain vices with a civilised veneer. In the 20th century we have enriched ourselves with innovations in the field of hypocrisy. We find ever more ingenious ways to apply double (triple? quadruple?) standards.

The bloody Yugoslav tragedy has unfolded before our eyes (and is it over yet?). To be sure, blame for it lies with the Communist coterie of Josip Broz Tito, which imposed an arbitrary pattern of internal borders upon the country, trampling on ethnic common sense, and even relocating ethnic masses by force. Yet blame lies also with the venerable community of Western leaders, who — with an angelic naïveté — took those false borders seriously, and then hastened at a moment's notice, in a day or two, to recognise the independence of several breakaway republics whose political formation they apparently found to be advantageous. It was these leaders, then, who nudged Yugoslavia toward many grueling years of civil war; and their position, declared as neutral, was by no means such.

Yugoslavia, with its seven estranged peoples, was told to fall

apart as soon as possible. But Bosnia, with its three estranged peoples and vivid memories of Hitlerite Croats slaughtering up to a million Serbs, had to remain united at all costs — the particular insistence of the United States Government. Who can explain the disparity of such an approach?

Another example: the Trans-Dniester Republic and Abkhazia were deemed illegitimate simply because they were "self-proclaimed". But which of the CIS countries was not "self-proclaimed"? Kazakhstan? Ukraine? They were immediately and unconditionally recognised as legitimate, even democratic (and the "Ukrainian Popular Self-Defence" Brown-shirts continue to march about freely, torches and all). Did not the United States also "self-proclaim" their independence? Meanwhile, the Kurds are not allowed even to self-proclaim. When they are not being squashed by Iraq, with the tacit consent of the United States, then they are being smashed by Nato member Turkey even on non-Turkish territory, while the whole civilised world looks on with utter indifference. Are the Kurds a "superfluous nation" on this earth?

Or take the Crimea and the port city of Sevastopol. Any sober mind

on either side would at least agree that the Crimean question is very complex, whereas Ukraine's claim to Sevastopol has no legal base. Yet the US State Department, choosing not to trouble itself with the history of the matter, has continued to assert authoritatively, for six years running, that both the Crimea and Sevastopol are unequivocally the property of Ukraine, end of discussion. Would it presume to speak so categorically on, say, the future of Northern Ireland?

Still another accomplishment of political hypocrisy is apparent in the way in which we conduct "war crimes tribunals". Wars, for thousands of years, have always been aggravated on both sides by crimes and injustices. In hopes that a just reason might prevail, in order to make sense of war and to punish evil passions and evil deeds, Russia proposed The Hague Convention of 1899.

Yet no sooner did the first war crimes trial take place — the Nazis at Nuremberg — than we saw, elevated high upon the judges' bench, the unblemished administrators of a justice system that during those same years handed over to torture, execution and untimely death tens of millions of

innocent lives in its own country.

And if we continue to differentiate between the always inevitable deaths of soldiers at war and the mass killings of undoubtedly peaceful citizens, then by what name shall we call those who, in a matter of minutes, burnt to death 140,000 civilians at Hiroshima alone — justifying the act with the astounding words, "to save the lives of our soldiers"? That President and his entourage were never subjected to trial, and they are remembered as worthy victors. And how shall we name those who, with victory fully in hand, dispatched a two-day wave of fighter bombers to reduce to ashes beautiful Dresden, a civilian city teeming with refugees? The death toll was not far below Hiroshima, and two orders of magnitude greater than at Coventry. The Coventry bombing, however, was condemned in trial, while the Air Marshal who directed the bombing of Dresden was not only spared the brand of "war criminal", but towers over the British capital in a monument, as a national hero.

In an age marked by such a flourishing of jurisprudence, we ought to see clearly that a well-considered international law is a law which justly punishes crim-

nals irrespective — irrespective — of their side's victory or defeat. No such law has yet been created; found a firm footing, or been universally recognised. It follows, then, that The Hague tribunal still lacks sufficient legal authority with respect to its accused and might on occasion lack impartiality. If so, its verdicts would constitute reprisal, not justice. For all the numerous corpses of civilians uncovered in Bosnia, from all the warring parties, no suspects seem to have been found from the safeguarded Muslim side. Finally, we might mention this remarkable tactic: The Hague tribunal now hands down indictments in secret, not announcing them publicly. Somewhere, the accused is summoned on a civil matter, and immediately captured — a method beyond even the Inquisition, more worthy of barbarians, circa 3,000 BC.

Perusing the world map, we find many examples of today's hypocritical double standard. Here is but one more. In the Euro-American camp, all sorts of integration and partnership are cultivated and nurtured, stretching over lands on the periphery of this space, like Ukraine, willing, even to incorporate faraway Central Asia. At the same time, all sorts of political

interference and economic pressure are vigilantly applied in order to derail the very plan of a rapprochement between Belarus and Russia.

And what of Nato expansion? Which, by the way, adds allies who surely will remain apathetic and useless vis-à-vis the Alliance's global, non-European aims. It is either the traditional Cold War hypnosis, impairing one's ability to see the powerlessness of Russia, beset by internal troubles. Or, on the contrary, it is extreme far-sightedness on the part of Nato's leaders. Should the high-tariff strangling of Russian exports (except for creatively cheap natural resource exports) prove insufficient should the implacable dictat of Russian internal policy (bundled with loans that only enable it to prove insufficient as well; there will now be, in reserve, the "neutralisation" of Russia into a comatose state).

I have not the means to guess whether Russia's current leaders understand this. Most likely they do not witness their own clumsy participation in that elegant new phenomenon of the "peacekeeping forces" in Bosnia or Tajikistan; or their confused, lost policies regarding the CIS countries, or their doomed attempts to hold on to Chechnya, with reckless disregard

for the human cost; witness, finally, their blind inability to find a reasonable and just solution to the controversy over the Kuril Islands. They see themselves at the helm of the ship of Russian history, but they are not. They do not direct the course of events.

As for those who do, their plans to establish a "final worldwide security" are ephemeral as well. Given human nature we ought never to attain such security. It would be futile, at the very least, to march towards this goal armed with hypocrisy and scheming short-term calculations, as practised by a revolving door of officials and by the powerful financial circles that back them. Nor can security be bought with any new technical "superintervention" — for no secret lasts. Only if the creative and active forces of mankind dedicate themselves to finding gradual and effective restraints against the evil facets of human nature to an elevation of our moral consciousness — only then will a faint, distant hope exist. To embark upon this path, and to walk it, requires a patient, pure heart and the wisdom and willingness to place constraints on one's own side, to limit oneself even before limiting others. But today that path only elicits an ironic chuckle, if not open ridicule.

If so, don't bother calling for "world security".

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## Mother of all mothers

Daniel Johnson on the Virgin, the Pope and the petition

On long car journeys my family sometimes listens to a tape of Pope John Paul II reciting the Rosary in Latin. Central to this long sequence of prayers is the Hail Mary. We often joke that this papal litany is an infallible method of getting fractious children in the back seat to doze off. *Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum...* But the incantatory beauty of these syllables — uttered countless times since the 11th century and now reiterated in a gravelly Polish *basso profundo* — speak to the child in each and every one of us. We all have had mothers, and Mary is the mother of all mothers.

It is reported that some four million Roman Catholics, including Mother Teresa, are petitioning the Pope to sanction the elevation of the Blessed Virgin to "Co-Redemptrix" with her Son. I cannot see a need further to exalt the status of Our Lady, whom not only Roman Catholics but many other Christians already venerate as "Mother of God". But I am not shocked by Marian piety — provided that nobody misunderstands "co-redempter" to mean that the Holy Trinity was really a quartet. That would be heresy.

Some Protestants have always accused Catholics of Mariolatry. This is to confuse worship with intercession. Worse are the Catholics guilty of this when they should know better. When a Filipino priest told our congregation that Mary could deliver anything we prayed for, he risked just such confusion. But the petitioners' demand that Mary be recognised as the "Mediatrix of All Graces and Advocate of the People of God" does not contradict Catholic doctrine.

Precisely because she is not divine but human, Mary seems more approachable than Christ Himself. If Our Lord brings salvation to mankind, it is Our Lady who comforts us in our troubles. This warm, familiar quality appeals especially to our inhospitable modern world. The great Marian shrines — Walsingham, Guadalupe, Fatima, Lourdes, and now Medjugorje — have replaced

those of other saints as the principal places of pilgrimage. The two doctrines that define modern Mariology — the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption — are ancient traditions but were declared articles of faith only in the past 150 years. They are of far greater significance than the question of co-redemption, which would be merely a refinement of doctrine.

Papal infallibility does not give John Paul II a free hand to alter the established teachings of his predecessors and the ecumenical councils. On the contrary: he is bound not to anticipate the evolving consensus of the Church. In Vatican circles most doubt that he is preparing a new Millennial Marian dogma.

Yet Mary does see the Church in a secular age, hostile to the family and dominated by extremes of materialism and feminism. His devotion to Our Lady is well-known, though little understood in Protestant Britain. One can interpret Wojtyla's devotion psychologically. He lost his mother very young; his father, a professional soldier, was deeply pious. Polish servicemen are particularly devoted to the Virgin, and the Black Madonna of Czestochowa has long been a patriotic as well as a religious symbol. As a Polish intellectual, Wojtyla was lucky to survive the Nazi occupation, working in a labour camp while secretly training to be a priest. Scarcely less grim was the Communist era. Is it any wonder that the Church became his family and Mary his mother?

But one cannot reduce religion to psychology. The Madonna is the Christian image of what Goethe meant by "the eternal feminine". Amid so much *odium theologum*, let us not forget Mary herself: that extraordinary Jewish maiden, who responded to the Annunciation with sublime words of humility: "My soul doth magnify the Lord; and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my saviour." She at least knew her place in the divine order.

## Europe's President in waiting

Britain has a prime candidate for the EU's unlikely appointment

Jack Lang is no longer the figure he once was in French politics. There was a time when, as Minister for Culture under Mitterrand, he was the cover picture on news magazines, typifying Socialist triumphalism in the arts. Now he has been left out of Lionel Jospin's administration, probably wisely, and resents it. He has found a perch as president of the foreign affairs committee of the French Assembly, normally a position of more influence than power. Nevertheless, he still has the aura which politicians who were once big figures sometimes retain: no one is quite sure that the volcano is entirely extinct.

On Monday the volcano emitted a suspicious cloud of sulphur. Jack Lang disturbed the quiet of August in Paris by publishing a "point of view" article in *Le Monde*. It was headed: "Je ne voterai pas le traité d'Amsterdam." Admittedly this bold statement was almost immediately qualified: he will not vote for the Treaty of Amsterdam in its present form. Like all experienced politicians, he leaves himself an exit. He does, however, claim to have allies, at least in other parliaments of the European Union.

M Lang finds the Treaty of Amsterdam unacceptable because it does not go far enough. He accuses the treaty of abandoning the European ambition. "In contrast to an America which is vigorous, creative and conquering, Europe offers a spectacle of inertia." He fears the very thing which many British Eurosceptics hope — that Amsterdam will lead to "the triumph of the ultra-liberal Europe of Madame Thatcher over the Europe of the will". This phrase, "l'Europe de la volonté", has an unpleasant ring to it: it reminds one of Leni Riefenstahl's *The Triumph of the Will*, the film which celebrated the Nuremberg rally.

Eurosceptics will get little comfort from the article as a whole. Although Lang holds

out an ultra-liberal Thatcherite Europe as a bogey for the French, he is much more convincing when he writes about the actual achievements of the Euro-federalists. "With entry to the euro, more than half the road towards the United States of Europe will have been traversed. Four European institutions will, in effect, have been given a status which is federal or quasi-federal: the Central Bank, the Court of Justice, the Commission and, in part, the European Parliament." This is the truth, and apart from the democratic fig leaf of the European Parliament, the weakest of these four institutions, they are appointed and bureaucratic, not democratic, bodies.

Jack Lang wants to create a European federal government, "a true executive". In order to develop such a new constitution for Europe, he would first like to see the

appointment of a person "chosen by common accord" — whatever that may mean — to undertake informal contacts, "far from the cameras"; this person would create "the basis of a new construction". He then wants, as a second stage, a European constitutional convention, "composed of the delegates of the people, of the states, and of economic and social organisations".

These proposals are far from being an open democratic approach to a new European constitution. "M Europe", will, it seems, be chosen by a mysterious process and operate by mysterious means. There has already been too much secrecy about the building of Europe and it has created mistrust. It sounds very well to talk about negotiating a European constitution "far from the cameras", because television is a suspect medium, but it opens the negotiations will also be far from the people. A convention where "economic and social organisations" play a significant role sounds rather like Mussolini's Fascist Grand Council.



This article shows the gap that exists between British and French opinion. We do, of course, have our own Euro-federalists who want a United States of Europe, though only a minority of them admit it. Many of them might support the idea of a European constitutional convention, yet a secret negotiation, representative of a less than fully representative convention, would be unacceptable even to most of them. These issues are far too important to be debated "discreetly and informally", rather than democratically and publicly. Jack Lang compares his proposed convention to the late 18th-century Convention of Philadelphia, which created the Constitution of the United States. The American Constitution is much more democratic than anything Europe yet has. The European constitution, as it has emerged so far, is largely bureaucratic. In the United States, the President is elected by all the people; the European Union has no President, but the President of the Commission is appointed by the governments. Both the

United States and Europe have an appointed Supreme Court and Central Bank: these are non-democratic bodies of extensive political powers. Europe has a Parliament of limited powers, whose membership is largely determined by the less than democratic party list system. The United States has a much more powerful Congress, of two houses whose membership is ultimately determined by the fully democratic system of party primaries.

The people of Europe cannot dismiss the Government of the European Union; the American people can and regularly do dismiss their Presidents, and change control of either or both Houses of Congress. Even on the most important matters, such as the transfer of powers from the democratic national governments to the European Union, it is not customary to consult the European people. Only three of the countries of the EU — France, Denmark and Ireland — had a popular referen-

dum on the Maastricht treaty. The refusal of a British referendum on Maastricht was an insult to democracy, for which the old Conservative Government and the Labour Opposition shared responsibility. In his important pamphlet on *The Creation and Destruction of EMU*, Walter Eillis quotes Bismarck's view of universal suffrage as "government of a house by its nursery. But you can do anything with children." After 1945, under strong American influence, the individual nations of the new Europe rebuilt their constitutions on democratic principles. Democracy replaced Fascism in Italy, the Vichy Government in France, the Nazi regime in Germany and eventually the Franco regime in Spain. All 15 members of the European Union, as individual nations, are democracies. But the European Union itself is not; it has been bureaucratic from the beginning, and it has not become significantly less bureaucratic as time has passed.

In the unlikely event that Europe decided to have an

elected President, to redress the democratic deficit, who might it be? Not a German, the first time — Chancellor Kohl is too old and the voters would fear German power; not a man of the Right — European politics is still swinging towards centrist Social Democrats; able to speak good English, the first language of one section of the electorate, and the second language in the other nations; fluent in at least one other major language, preferably French; bridging the Catholic-Protestant divide, while appealing to Christian voters in all countries; under 50, to represent the Europe of youth; with charismatic electioneering skills and a strong power base at home. Whose face swims up as the most likely to be the first elected President of the European Union if Jack Lang ever gets his European Philadelphia? None other than that of Britain's favourite son, our own, our very own, George Washington Blair. Might that not be yet another triumph for the dreaded Anglo-Saxons?

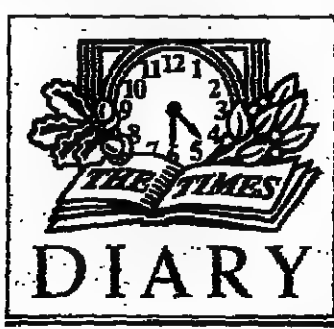
## Fast Lady

THE macho world of powerboat racing is a spin. Fiona Countess of Arran is to come out of retirement for this weekend's world cup at Cowes. She is 79. Lady Arran once drove offshore powerboats so fast that onlookers would remark that they appeared to be flying. She

set a string of records, including being the first woman to maintain a speed of 100mph for the length of Windermere.

Lady Arran hung up her lifejacket almost a decade ago and in recent years has been fighting Parkinson's disease. However, she tired of sitting watching the wallabies trim the verges at her Hertfordshire home and wanted to see some action again. Accompanied only by a navigator, she will take the wheel of her boat, *Hopscorech*, at the National Express Cowes Classic. Depending on how she feels, she will compete in either a 60-mile circuit of the Isle of Wight, or the 36-mile and 90-mile races that comprise the Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat World Cup.

"I got so bored with doing nothing I thought I would go boat racing again. It's a bit of enjoyment," she breezes. "It would be nice if it's calm and flat. I've seen a bit of rough and been turned over



once or twice. The nice thing about the sea is that anything can happen."

Lady Arran, who took her son, the Earl of Arran, and his family for a very wet practice run the other day, seems to have a slightly different concept of speed from other people. "Oh we won't be going very fast at all, just 50 miles per hour."

### New image

LATEST to join the ranks of British magazine editors is snapper-by-royal appointment, the Earl of

Snowdon, who has been asked to edit an edition of *Country Life* in November. "It's terribly exciting," says Snowdon, who has already drawn up dummy proofs in the office at his West London home. "I've been told to stay within a budget, but otherwise I can do whatever I like. I've always had a soft spot for *Country Life* since they published one of my photographs in 1951." Regular readers should brace themselves for an editorial shake-up. "It will just be one delicious surprise," he says.

### Cover story

AS swarms of Oasis fans get over-excited about the band's new album released today, Pringle-clad members of a country club in Hertfordshire are bracing themselves for an invasion. The cover of *Be Here Now* features Stocks Hotel, in Aldbury, near Tring, which used to be a rockers' hangout when it was owned by the Playboytroon Victor Lowmes. Now it is home to corporate conferences, and lots of hairy Oasis fans will be welcome only if

they are prepared to pay £120 a night for a room. "We are very jealous of our privacy here," says Stocks's chairman Neil List. Nevertheless, the hotel is planning to market the bedroom where Liam and Patsy stayed in a similar way to the four-poster honeymoon suite at the Crown Hotel, in Amersham. It was there that Hugh Grant and



Andie MacDowell took a tumble in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. The room is booked up for years ahead.

● August has brought no respite from humiliation for Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary. In June he had to contend with the criticisms of Ann Widdecombe, the former Prisons Minister, who accused him of having "something of the night" in his personality. Beleguering him this month is Florence Amess, aged five, daughter of the Tory MP David Amess. When Widdecombe presented her with a black Labrador puppy this week, she declared to her father's delight: "I'm going to call it Michael."

### Mail shot

ROSS BENSON, who is parting company with *The Express* after 24 years, is understood to be on the verge of signing up with the paper's arch rival, the *Daily Mail*. Insiders are saying that his new job as a feature writer will be rather less ex-

citing than the roving role he lastly enjoyed at *The Express*. Certainly it will be less glamorous than running the *Diary*, which he did for many years. Most interesting will be the relationship between the magnificently coiffured Benson and bawling Nigel Dempster, with whom he had many spats in print when the two were rival diarists. "I will treat him with kid gloves and welcome him with a caviare and lobster lunch," says Dempster. "He is no longer a rival."

● There is an endearing realism about the cast of George Bernard Shaw's comedy *Misalliance*, which opened on Tuesday night at the Chichester Festival Theatre. Playing Hyacinth, the daughter of a Leeds underwear manufacturer, is Harriet Woolfitt. Her grandfather is the daughter of Stanley Woolfitt, also a Leeds underwear manufacturer. "I had never occurred to me until I had got the role, and Dad painted it out," Harriet says.



Lady Arran: water sport

P.H.S





## ARAFAT'S TWO FACES

The weak politician and the covert warrior

Israel's already stormy political horizon darkened dramatically yesterday. Israel retaliated against Hezbollah rocket barrages on Galilee with its biggest air strike on Lebanon in 16 months, cutting electricity to Sidon, and putting the 1996 accord that ended Israel's last Lebanon offensive to its toughest test to date. In Gaza, it was Yasser Arafat who turned up the political pressure, embracing leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in a "national unity meeting".

The difference between these two incidents is that while Israel insists that it acted only under extreme provocation and that its aim is to return peace to the Lebanese frontier, Mr Arafat's action was calculated to inflame. It would have been so at any time, but in the wake of the lethal suicide bomb attacks in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda marketplace, the Palestinian leader has been under intense and wholly legitimate pressure to denounce terrorist activity.

The question is why this master of gesture politics has chosen instead to recall the infamy of years and declare, before such an audience, that "all options are open". Mr Arafat's spokesman denied that this was a call for violence, only a declaration that Palestinians must confront Israel "in whatever way they could". The implied distinction will be undetectable to most Palestinians, and invisible to most Israelis.

One possible explanation is that Mr Arafat senses that a public act of defiance is necessary for political survival, so deeply has popular support for him been declining among Palestinians; and even that it is the more necessary because in practice, he sees no alternative to tighter co-operation with Israel and America on security matters. This was, in other words, a bit of tactical weaving by a weak politician, under fire both for his administration's corruption and human rights abuses and for the miserable failure of the halting negotiations with Israel to improve Palestinians' lives.

Mr Arafat was, on this reading, politically on the ropes before the Jerusalem bomb, standing accused by his own people of

maladministration and cronyism so flagrant that nearly half the Palestinian Authority budget had disappeared into the pockets of an exploitative few. Israel's iron response to the bombings gave him an opportunity to deflect the blame, and he has seized it.

The other possibility is, of course, that while Mr Arafat insists that he will not tolerate lawlessness any more than he will head under Israeli pressure, he remains ambivalent about the legitimacy of the "armed struggle" that Israelis live with as terrorism. Four years after he and Yitzhak Rabin shook hands at the White House, he has still not dispelled that element of doubt.

His police took a tough stance at one point against Hamas terrorists, but some of those convicted escaped jail with suspicious ease and over a hundred have been released. If, today, he rejects Benjamin Netanyahu's angry demand that he arrest known extremists, "collect their guns and dismantle their bomb factories" and vows to stand by "our brethren", it is not clear whether he does so because he dares not act or because he still sees the bomb as a weapon of diplomacy. That is what Israel now has to test.

Reading Mr Arafat's lips has always been less rewarding than watching his feet. If his officials, however quietly, set to work within the trilateral security framework with Israel and America recently drawn up by the US special envoy, Dennis Ross, Israel should then address some genuine Palestinian grievances. Joblessness ranks high among these: a good reason for Mr Netanyahu to reopen the borders to Palestinian workers as soon as Israeli Intelligence judges it safe. He should immediately render to the Palestinian Authority \$46 million in tax revenues legally owed by Israel. This was an unwise retaliatory measure which gives credence to Palestinian claims to be the victims of "collective punishment". Mr Arafat's rhetoric will harden Israel against concessions; but it is in Israel's interests to lower the misery index which has helped Hamas to raise its level of support in the West Bank and Gaza to a deeply troubling 25 per cent.

## BOOMERS AND BUSTERS

Today's toddlers may bear the biggest pension burden of all

When the 1947 baby boom caught planners by surprise, prefabricated classrooms had to house the extra 100,000 infants. The equivalent of an additional 100,000 children in school. The second baby boom, from 1961 to 1971 — happened more gradually, allowing educationists to cope. But are policy-makers thinking hard enough about the longer-term future of these people? A new study, *Baby Boomers: Ageing in the 21st Century*, from Age Concern, predicts that retirement for today's twenty to thirtysomethings could be precarious unless they start planning for it now.

For their parents' generation, life was comparatively secure. Though born into an age of austerity, during and after the war, they could look forward to high employment and lifetime jobs with predictable promotions. The nurturing embrace of the cradle-to-grave welfare state protected them against the vicissitudes of life. In old age, they were likely to have both a spouse and children to help to care for them.

People born in the 1960s, while they were reared in an age of prosperity, entered the labour market at a time of recession. Technological change and global competition have only made employment more insecure. No longer are there jobs for life, and neither the employer nor the State is likely to take on a paternalistic role.

If members of this generation have to fend for themselves at work, they are also increasingly likely to have to do so at home. A higher proportion will remain single or, if married, will divorce. Many fewer will have

children, and those who do will have fewer children. Of today's old and infirm people, 83 per cent seek help from relatives. But when the baby boomers become old and frail, their daughters (for women tend to take on the responsibility) are more likely to be working full-time and unable to help.

Altogether, there will be a much higher number of retired people compared with the working population expected to support them, not just because of the 1960s boom in births, but because of the relatively small size of succeeding generations. By 2020, there will be six people over retirement age for every ten of working age. In 1991, the ratio was just three to ten. That suggests not just fewer carers, but fewer taxpayers willing to fund the greater demands on the NHS and long-term care of the elderly.

The picture is not entirely bleak, for this baby-boom generation is more likely to have second pensions, either occupational or private, and own a house. They may be able to afford to pay for more care out of their own pockets. But they will also have experienced more fragmented employment than their parents, with greater emphasis on temporary, freelance and part-time work.

This will be a generation reared on high expectations and an awareness of consumer rights. By 2021, the proportion of the electorate that is retired will have risen from a quarter to a third. If they manage to capture the political agenda and achieve higher public spending on the old funded by taxes, it could be their children, the toddlers of today, who bear the biggest burden of all.

## DEBT OF HONOUR

Montserrat deserves more than a gunboat and food parcels

The Government may have sent a gunboat to the Caribbean island of Montserrat but there is precious little else Palmerstonian about its response to the plight of British subjects there. For the thousands on Montserrat whose homes have been consumed by the volcanic eruption on the island the support from the Government responsible for their welfare has been feeble. The \$41.5 million spent so far is a drop in the Atlantic Ocean.

The inhabitants of Montserrat do not even need to think back to Palmerston to feel aggrieved. Only 15 years ago a task force was dispatched and a Government's life hazarded to safeguard the future of the Falkland Islanders. Now, a different Government looks to the copybook headings, sends a ship but cannot give the guarantees its dependants need. One does not need to be an imperial romantic, simply a believer in plain dealing and the debt of honour, to find the Government's response inadequate.

The inhabitants of Montserrat are British dependants, the moral responsibility of ministers as much as the citizens of Burnley or Belfast. Indeed, our responsibility for their welfare is arguably greater given the unhappy British Nationality Act of 1981 which denied them, and the citizens of Hong Kong among others, the right freely to settle in the country which colonised them. The volcano which devastated the island earlier this year has left only an enclave at all habitable and rendered the island as a whole

unlivable. Even if individuals were inclined to stay in that quarter to the north that is deemed safe, the threat of future eruptions would make such a course foolhardy.

The only guarantee of security that the people of Montserrat can have is an assurance that their needs will be met on a neighbouring island without incurring the resentment of those kind enough to take them. Such an assurance will need to be underwritten by Britain. No such assurance has yet been given.

The Government is offering to evacuate all those who wish to leave. But, without a guarantee of a basic income or grant along the lines of the £30,000 or so per family requested by the Montserrat Chief Minister, many are understandably reluctant to go. What assurance do they have that when they are shipped to neighbouring Antigua or Barbuda they will not be left there without adequate support? These island nations are eager to assist but they do not have the resources to absorb thousands of refugees. Unless Britain is prepared to provide greater financial support to build homes, equip hospitals and help resettlement, then tension and poverty will replace volcanic eruption as the curse of Montserrat's people.

The planned pop concert in the spirit, though not on the scale, of Live Aid is a noble gesture. But Montserrat is not a foreign country fit for food parcels. It is British soil and British ministers should not need pop stars to shame them into doing their duty.

## Appeal for policy rethink on coal

From the Director General of the Confederation of United Kingdom Coal Producers

Sir, The Energy Minister, John Birt, expressed regret today over the closure of RJB Mining's Asfordby pit (reports, August 19) — and promised that Government would act to support domestic producers. This is encouraging news indeed, and is the first indication of government support for our indigenous coal industry since their election.

Coal, together with nuclear power and gas, should be a cornerstone and equal partner in a policy which will ensure we make the best long-term use of all our energy resources. Our reserves of coal remain considerable compared with the currently abundant but short-term availability of gas. New gas finds will not be in the shallow waters around our coast, and therefore will be more expensive. By maintaining existing markets for coal, we have sufficient reserves to last for generations to come.

The EU forecasts that by the year 2020, the UK will be reliant on foreign suppliers for 48 per cent of its energy. Our gas will be supplied from the less politically stable countries of the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and North Africa.

To allow such a development is inconsistent with promoting an energy policy based on diversity, security and sustainability. It is not too late to stop the plug being pulled on Britain's coal industry and to make the changes necessary to ensure we make good use of our rich coal reserves within an integrated energy policy and environmental framework.

The technology exists and is being used in other countries to burn coal cleanly; a similar investment now in the UK will be an investment in the future of our children for whom energy resources will be an increasingly critical issue.

Yours faithfully,  
GERRY A. MOUSLEY,  
Director General,  
Confederation of UK Coal Producers,  
Confederation House,  
Thornes Office Park,  
Denby Dale Road,  
Wakefield, West Yorkshire,  
August 19.

From Mrs Pamela Ross

Sir, There are two factors which do not seem to have been taken into consideration in all the deliberations about the closure of Asfordby mine and the future of coal in Britain.

The first is the limit on the amount of coal which can be imported through British ports, which means that there will always be a minimum requirement for home-produced coal. The other is that it takes a considerable length of time to develop a coalmine — ten years or more. In the long term, when gas has run out, more coal will be needed. If the deep mines have been closed, there will be no experienced workforce or management available to produce it.

This Government needs a long-term energy policy which includes a place for the coal industry. This should be formulated as soon as possible to protect the country's coal reserves for our future needs.

Yours faithfully,  
PAMELA ROSS (Regional Councillor  
(Energy and Utilities Section), GMB,  
Bank House, Market Place,  
Cawood, Selby, North Yorkshire,  
August 19.

## A fair fare?

From Mr David Norris

Sir, Perhaps one incentive which Mrs C. M. Potter (letter, August 18) should take into account when assessing the value of public transport is safety. Trains are much safer than cars.

Perhaps the media should publish a weekly summary of casualties caused by travelling by rail, air, public road transport and private car, allowing us to appreciate the relative risks.

The premium paid is surely worth the safety of Mrs Potter's daughter and granddaughter.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID NORRIS,  
Blackhorn, Bockhurst Lane,  
Wadhurst, East Sussex,  
August 18.

From Dr D. H. Sharp

Sir, Mrs C. M. Potter makes the common but cardinal error of equating the cost of using her car with the minimum marginal cost — that of fuel used.

This marginal cost is about 9p per mile, which would cost for the return journey from Reading to Guildford — say 52 miles — about £4.70, which is indeed less than one third of her rail fare of £18.60.

In contrast, the total, real cost per mile, as assessed by a popular car magazine, ranges from about 33p for a Ford Escort to about 50p for a Saab 900. My district council allows me to claim 43.5p per mile, as a councillor, and this figure is approved by the district auditor. Thus the real cost of her journey would have been about £22.

Yours faithfully,  
D. H. SHARP,  
Greenhill House,  
Shoreham Road,  
Oxford, Sevenoaks, Kent,  
August 18.

Business letters, page 27

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Sweating it out as the dew falls and temperatures rise

From Mr Peter J. Camp

Sir, If the Meteorological Office wishes to produce a "comfort index" combining the effects of temperature and humidity (letters, August 16 and 19) it should contact its colleagues at the World Meteorological Organisation or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These two bodies jointly produced a credit-card sized card for distribution to those attending the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year.

By comparing air temperature with relative humidity the table on the card indicates the "apparent temperature". For example, when the air temperature is 84F and the relative humidity is 40 per cent the apparent temperature is 83F. However, if the air temperature is 84F but the relative humidity is 90 per cent the apparent temperature increases to 94F.

The effects are more spectacular the higher the air temperature. With an air temperature of 94F and relative humidity at 80 per cent the apparent temperature is 129F.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER J. CAMP,  
Rosewood House,  
Wanborough Lane,  
Cranleigh, Surrey,  
August 19.

From Professor Emeritus Alan Day

Sir, When I served in the RAF as a meteorological officer in India in the final months of the Raj, we had a very simple rule of thumb to relate weather

conditions with physical discomfort: if the wet bulb temperature rose significantly above 80F, the level of discomfort rose sharply and one's working efficiency fell off correspondingly.

The wet bulb reading is based on a normal thermometer whose bulb is surrounded by a damp wick. In dry desert conditions it can read 30 degrees or more below the dry bulb temperature as a result of evaporation, whereas when the air is saturated with water vapour the two readings coincide.

Here on a hilltop in rural Kent at midday by the sun, today's dry bulb temperature was 88F and the wet bulb 76F. This is quite bad enough, albeit well below the readings achieved, say, in midsummer Washington DC or Calcutta in the monsoon, when readings in the top half of the eighties are not uncommon.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN DAY,  
Chart Place, Chart Sutton, Kent,  
August 19.

From Mr James Denson

Sir, I quote the following from the 1994 edition of *The Guinness Book of Records*:

Humidity and discomfort: Human comfort or discomfort depends not merely on temperature but on the combination of temperature, humidity, radiation and wind speed. The United States Weather Bureau uses a Temperature-Humidity Index, which equals two fifths of the sum of the dry and wet bulb thermometer readings plus 15. A THI of 98.2 has been twice recorded in Death Valley, California — on 17th July 1966

(110F and 21 per cent) and on 12 Aug 1970 (117F and 37 per cent).

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES DENSON,  
8 Lyon Avenue,  
New Milton, Hampshire,  
jed@cs.nott.ac.uk

From Mr R. J. Turner

Sir, Professor Maurice Crosland (letter, August 1) wonders why the Meteorological Office does not give quantitative data relating to humidity. I suggest the answer is implicit in the piece by Simon Jenkins on the facing page, headed "A-level students rightly prefer 'soft' subjects to dry and useless sciences".

I am sure the Meteorological Office doesn't bother because it realises that only a tiny minority would have any clue as to what it was talking about.

In this present spell of hot and humid weather I have heard several people express astonishment at the very heavy dew which occurs each morning. When I explain that because the relative humidity is so high the slightest overnight cooling results in the air being cooled below its dew-point temperature and thus condensation occurs, they look at me as if I had asked them in Serbo-Croat for directions to the nearest public convenience.

Yours faithfully,  
R. TURNER,  
92 Brook Lane,  
Warrash, Southampton, Hampshire,  
August 18.

## Solutions to Africa's political and financial problems

From Mr David Lort-Phillips

Sir, Matthew Parris's gloomy view of the prospects for Africa (articles, August 8 and 19) has reopened an important debate (letters, August 16).

It is not just the particular horrors of Rwanda, Zaire and Angola. Of more enduring importance are the unending miseries of millions of Africans, many of whose national governments and ruling elites seem to have given up on them. The tragedy is that so many, given a modicum of good government and the right kind of international help, can do so much on their own behalf.

Having worked as a district officer in rural Nigeria in the late Sixties, originally through VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas), and again in the late Eighties on a World Bank project, my heart responds to the would-be optimists; but my head recognises that much of what Parris says is true.

What principally depressed me, on my return to Nigeria, was not declining living standards (many were materially far better off) but falling morale and a lack of faith in their own or indeed any system of government.

This contrasted starkly with the dedication and faith in the future shown by many of my young colleagues in the administration in the

1960s. I recall urging them, when my wife and I left Nigeria in 1967, to bring their best talents into local government, thus creating an infrastructure to secure people's basic needs, against the time when national governments failed them, as they have consistently done ever since.

If Matthew Parris's Domesday scenario is not to be realised it is at that level that the international community must apply encouragement and help.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID LORT-PHILLIPS,  
Knowles Farm,  
Lawrenny, Pembrokeshire,  
August 17.

From the High Commissioner for Kenya

Sir, Your editorial, "Light in dark places" (August 18), makes a rather tenuous argument that corruption is unavoidable in any but the best-run and well-established democracies. In fact the former socialist (communist) countries had near zero corruption until capitalism and democracy were introduced in the recent past.

Corruption is costly because it leads to the misallocation of scarce resources. However, it is not necessarily

true that corruption and poverty go together. Corruption and poverty do not have a cause-and-effect relationship.

Yours sincerely,  
M. NGALI,  
Kenya High Commission,  
45 Portland Place, W1,  
August 18.

From Mr Bill Linton

Sir, In the second of his articles on Africa, Matthew Parris likens the struggles of African countries to escape poverty to those of spiders trying to climb out of a bathtub.

When I spot a spider in my bath — assuming I don't want a bath immediately — I drape a bathmat over the side, reaching down to a level it can get to. When I come back later, it has usually made good its escape. Similarly, if we can simply remove the insurmountable obstacles in the Africans' way — principally the completely unsustainable levels of debt which they face — they will be out of the bath in no time, and we can relax in the tub with a clear conscience.

Yours faithfully,  
BILL LINTON,  
39a Fox Lane,  
Palmer Green, N13,  
August 16.

## Hindley's remorse

From Mr Julian J. Wrang

Sir, If Myra Hindley is as racked by contrition as the good Lord Longford, yet again, implies (letter, August 20), then should it matter to her one jot whether she is in jail or out of it? Either way, she can never be free.

Stone walls may not, in certain circumstances, be a prison make, but neither should release from them bestow a sudden or magical freedom from conscience.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN J. WRANG,  
17 Heol-y-Lwynni,  
Garth, Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan,  
August 20.

From Mr Jerome Gardner

Sir, In her analysis of the several issues raised by the "portrait" of Myra Hindley (article, August 18) Isabel Carlisle did not touch on one that seems to me equally relevant: the helpless situation of a long-term prisoner when faced by damaging publicity of this kind. In my view the continued use by the press of a scary police mug shot, taken 32 years ago, is a bad enough abuse of human rights without this absurd attempt to elevate it to the status of a work of art.

Of course the Royal Academy should ban it — for this reason as well as in deference to the expressed wishes of the relations of the Moors victims.

Yours faithfully,  
JEROME GARDNER,  
Mortcombe, Cherry Bridge,  
Barbrook, Lynton, Devon,  
August 18.

## St Edmundsbury tower

From Professor James Stevens Curl, FSA

Sir, Marcus Binney's excellent report of July 26 about the new scheme for a crossing-tower for Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, revealed a far nobler design than the stumpy approach for a tower favoured by the Cathedral Council (letter, August 4). The latter is based on a sketch produced simply for purposes of comparing costs.

In the 1960s the late Stephen Dykes Bower, architect of the fine extensions to the cathedral, drew up a soaring, wonderful tower that would have done justice to his own excellent work

## Haeckel's drawings

From Dr Michael K. Richardson

Sir, Professor Terry Hamblin (letter, August 18) is right to remind your readers that Ernst Haeckel's embryology drawings have been criticised before. Indeed, we make this point in our paper *Anatomy and Embryology*, on which Nigel Hawkes reported in your issue of August 11.

The problem remains, however, that many of the people who write the biology textbooks today do not appear to be aware of the controversy. This may explain why Professor Hamblin was taught Haeckel's discredited ideas at school. Modern views of how animals evolve are still heavily influenced by Haeckel's view that embryos are largely untouched by evolution.

Haeckel's legacy is predominantly an unpleasant one, and his racist ideas were taken up by the National Socialists. However, it is only fair to remember that he did a great deal of important work, especially in the field of invertebrate zoology.

Finally, I point out that the photographs of embryos accompanying Nigel Hawkes's article are mostly different species from those in Haeckel's drawings. Unfortunately, the labels which I supplied with the photographs were not printed.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL K. RICHARDSON  
(Lecturer),  
Department of Anatomy and  
Developmental Biology,  
St George's Hospital Medical School,  
Cranmer Terrace, SW17,  
m.richardson@sgms.ac.uk  
August 18.

there, I believe that Hugh Mathew's design would do ample justice to the integrity of the overall design.

Committees cannot design noble buildings. Mathew's tower could do just that, as everyone would agree if the council would only build what Dykes Bower intended, even without the spire.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
JAMES STEVENS CURL,  
15 Torgrange, Hollywood, Co Down,  
August 15.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Arms for oblivion?

From Mr Wyn K. Ford

Sir, May I offer a few comments on the proposed renaming of a Haywards Heath pub (Diary, August 19)?

It is clear that at one time the names under discussion were alternatives for the same establishment. I have not traced the existence of this pub earlier than 1832, when it was known as The Dolphin. But it was known as The Serpents Arms as early as 1845, and this name has continued in current use until the present time, although the building is labelled as the Dolphin Inn on a map dated 1857.

It would be unfortunate if the pub was now to revert to its early name. Locally it is known familiarly as the Sarge, and the change would probably lead to confusion with an identically named leisure centre and restaurant in the town.

Yours faithfully,  
WYN K. FORD  
(Joint author, *The Metropolis of Mid Sussex*, Charles Clark, 1981),  
40 Lodge Lane,  
Keymer, Hassocks, West Sussex,  
August 19.

From Sir Ilay Campbell

Sir, According to Burke's *Landed Gentry* the arms of the Serpents of Cuckfield Park — an estate some two miles out of Haywards Heath — were "Argent, on a chevron between three dolphins naiant sable, a plate between two fleurs-de-lis of the first".

Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

I am etc.  
ILAY CAMPBELL,  
Craske Lodge, Inveraray, Argyll,  
August 19.

## Keeping control

From Mr John Clark Maxwell

Sir, At this time of year I can understand why my local *Yellow Pages* has placed the announcement "School holidays, see the new inside guide" between "Pest and vermin control products" and "Pest and vermin control services".

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CLARK MAXWELL,  
The Mead House,  
Church Road,  
Swallowfield, Berkshire,  
August 16.







## OBITUARIES

## PETER NOBLE



Peter Noble, right, with Roger Moore

Peter Noble, columnist and writer on the cinema, died on August 17 aged 80. He was born on July 18, 1917.

Wardour Street, the narrow thoroughfare bisecting Soho, in spite of the recent incursion of glitzy mega-restaurants and sushi bars still retains traces of its raffish postwar aura as the epicentre of the British film business. It has lost one of its most colourful and universally loved figures. Peter Noble was not merely a columnist, trade paper editor, film historian, broadcaster, scriptwriter, and occasional actor, he was the Street's most dedicated fan, a warm and genial enthusiast whose energetic bombast infected anyone who came within his orbit.

The breadth of his acquaintance was immense. He seemed to know everyone, and possessed the commendable gift of being able to match face and name, thus at a chance meeting flattering with recognition those who barely knew him, ensuring that ever afterwards they were convinced that they were part of his enormous circle.

His background hardly matched the glamorous world in which he was to move. Born in East London, Peter Noble never knew his father, who was a casualty of the First World War. After his mother's remarriage he grew up in the North London suburb of Edmonton and went to Latymer School.

The cinema was a useful refuge from the irksome routine of school life, as he was neither scholarly nor sporty. After false career starts, in furtherance of his interest in left-wing politics he joined the Unity Theatre and made his London debut as an actor, appearing in *Symphony of Youth* in 1938, followed

by roles in *Waiting for Lefty*, *Till the Day I Die* and *Sabotage*.

By 1940 he had joined George Turner productions as a screenwriter, working on shorts and documentaries, and after a few silent walk-on parts he made his debut as a film actor in 1942 in Gainsborough's *It's That Man Again*, a film version of the radio comedy show, *ITMA*. He was in several other films, including *The Man from Morocco* and *The Bells Go Down*, and he wrote the songs and lyrics for the Will Hay film *My Learned Friend*.

He was also a member of the BBC drama repertory company during the heyday of *Saturday Night Theatre* on the Home Service. By then he had realised that he was more accomplished as a journalist than as an actor, and that even under the severe restrictions of wartime paper rationing new opportunities were opening up.

He worked for *What's On*, an entertainment listings magazine, and edited the *British Film Yearbook*, a comprehensive annual survey of production, then enjoying a rare boom time, securing for the first issue a foreword by Sir Alexander Korda and an introduction by J. Arthur Rank, who were the two pre-eminent tycoons of the era.

Noble always adroitly balanced the serious and frivolous sides of his immense output. For instance, at the same time that his commendable study of racial prejudice, *The Negro in Film*, was published, he was running the *Film Book Club*, which catered for the literary needs of the multitudes of fans who packed the cinemas in the busy times of the mid-1940s.

He was married twice, first to Sylvia



Durham, and in 1947 to the actress Marianne Stone, whom he had met at the Intimate Theatre, Palmers Green. They had two daughters, Katrina and Kara. Their social gatherings at their airy house in Abbey Road, St John's Wood, were always brilliant occasions where stars such as Ava Gardner or James Mason could relax and become normal mortals.

During the 1950s and 1960s he continued to write a wide range of books, including studies of Orson Welles and Erich von Stroheim, and he reached an even wider public first as a radio panellist, then as writer and presenter of *Movie-Go-Round*, BBC Radio's only film programme of any consequence. His depth of knowledge and the ease with which he could spin anecdotes of the famous always made him popular on quiz programmes.

In the mid-1970s he was appointed the editor of the leading film-business newspaper published in Britain, now

known as *Screen International*. For years his chatty gossip column "In Confidence" was required reading throughout the industry, often containing extraordinary scoops that had been passed to him directly by many of its biggest names, who trusted him never to be venomous or inaccurate. He always seemed starstruck, and his delicate avoidance of scabrous topics earned him wide respect.

Eventually, in 1992, the new proprietors of the paper felt that there was no longer a place for his entertaining, witty column, and dropped it, leaving a void that is still painfully apparent. During recent anxious months his illness had prevented him from leaving home, but many of his friends would go to see him, knowing that his time was short. It is a certainty that he would have wanted his obituary to end with the italicised words he used each week to sign himself off. So what else is new?

## PROFESSOR JOHN KNOWELDEN

John Knowelden, CBE, Professor of Community Medicine at the University of Sheffield, 1960-84, died on July 23 aged 78. He was born in London on April 19, 1919.



AFTER education at King's College London and St George's Hospital, John Knowelden was commissioned in 1942 as RNR Surgeon-Lieutenant and served for more than three years in the destroyer *HMS Quillan*. He was almost continually at sea, seeing action in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific on escort duties, protecting convoys and battle formations. In the Pacific his ship was protecting American aircraft carriers from submarine and kamikaze attacks during the extended sea battles of 1944-45. During these years, many survivors were picked up, but not all could be helped with the restricted medical facilities, and Knowelden acted as chaplain to the dying. The suffering and cruelty of war affected him deeply, though he seldom talked of it.

After a Rockefeller Fellowship in Preventive Medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1947-49, Knowelden was appointed to a lectureship at the department of medical statistics and epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. There he was greatly influenced by A. Bradford Hill, with whom he developed an enduring friendship. Together in 1949 they established a clear association between recent inoculation and poliomyelitis. Then, as a member of various Medical Research Council committees, he worked on important studies including whooping cough vaccine trials, a study of the use of ACTH, cortisone and aspirin in the treatment of acute rheumatic fever in children, and the study which established the link between poliomyelitis and previous tonsillectomy.

He organised the field trial involving two million children — that established the effectiveness of the British poliomyelitis vaccine. Under the auspices of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, he helped to establish cancer registries in the medical schools in new universities in

Uganda and Jamaica, where he also acted as adviser and assessor. He was also a member of the World Health Organisation's panel on cancer. In 1960, with Ian Taylor, he had written the standard textbook, *Principles of Epidemiology*, and for many years he co-edited the *British Journal of Preventive and Social Medicine*.

In 1960 he was appointed Professor of Community Medicine at Sheffield University, and in 1960 he established the publicly funded multidisciplinary Medical Care Research Unit, which still flourishes. He was one of the first to use a randomised clinical trial to establish the cost-effectiveness of a service innovation, early discharge after hernia repair. The 1964 Knowelden report, which he coordinated, established more accurately than hitherto the factors associated with sudden infant deaths. Knowelden also made major contributions to training in public health medicine nationally, and at Sheffield University he was instrumental in the development of the medical school and its establishment next to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

He was a modest and kindly man of great integrity, and expected as much of others. He taught that at every level of medical research, practice,

nursing and administration, personal integrity and accuracy were fundamental. His reserved manner and taste for understatement often shielded his full intellectual power and the width and depth of his understanding. A friend said of him that you could believe every word he said.

From 1962 to 1989, he served on the bench at Sheffield Magistrates' Court, and he was a senior member of the juvenile panel for more than 20 years. He was appointed CBE in 1983.

An accomplished pianist and a member of the Peak Music Society, he had a great love and knowledge of music. During his retirement he built and played his own harpsichord. He also loved fishing, on the River Derwent.

He was a trustee and secretary of the Wheelhouse Trust, a charity providing sheltered accommodation for the elderly in Scarborough, and he attended to its affairs until the last day before he entered the hospice where he died. He had diagnosed his own cancer many months before his friends knew, and bore his illness with quiet fortitude.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, whom he married in 1946, and his sons, David, a GP in Scarborough, and Anthony, a senior clerk at Sheffield Magistrates' Court.

## VICTORIA KAMHI DE RODRIGO

Victoria Kamhi de Rodrigo, pianist and wife of the Spanish composer Joaquín Rodrigo, died on July 21. Her exact date of birth is unknown, but she was born around 1900 in Istanbul.

VICTORIA KAMHI was known in international musical circles as the constant companion to her husband, the blind Spanish composer Joaquín Rodrigo, and as an outstanding musician in her own right, being a pianist and librettist. She was a cousin of Elias Canetti, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Her grandfather founded a large pharmaceutical comp-

any in the Balkans, and her father, based in Istanbul, continued the family business. Victoria played the piano from the age of 3½. Showing signs of exceptional ability, she studied with the Hungarian pianist Géza Heguey, a former pupil of Liszt, giving her first public concert at the age of 10. Her family moved from Istanbul to Vienna and in 1918 to Paris, where she was awarded a diploma by the Paris Conservatory.

In 1924 the Kamhi firm went bankrupt and the family fortune was lost. Around this time a gypsy prophesied that Victoria would marry a man who would be rich and famous, his name beginning with

"Jo". In 1929 she was introduced at a Parisian soirée to Joaquín Rodrigo, then a struggling young composer, and performed some of his piano pieces.

A difficult and prolonged courtship followed, against opposition from her father. Rodrigo's first proposals of marriage were rebuffed by her family, and he fled to his native Valencia in desolation. Eventually, without family approval, Victoria travelled to Spain to be married there on January 19, 1933.

The early years of marriage were lived in such poverty that at one time Victoria returned to live with her family, but the crisis was

temporarily resolved when Rodrigo won the Conde de Cartagena Scholarship in 1935. However this lapsed with the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, and once more the couple were thrown into penury. After living in Germany for two years, they returned to Paris in 1938. Shortly afterwards, perhaps as a result of their privations, Victoria suffered a miscarriage. With her life in the balance, Rodrigo composed, as a hymn of love and a fervent prayer, the *Adagio* movement of the *Concierto de Aranjuez*, which was destined to become one of the most famous works of the century. This was to be the turning

point in their lives. Returning to Spain after the Civil War, Rodrigo began the work of restoring the spirit of Iberian musical culture. In 1941 Victoria gave birth to their daughter Cecilia and the *Concierto de Aranjuez* was given its premiere. The piece gradually earned international renown, and Rodrigo's prolific compositions established him as one of the greatest of 20th-century Spanish composers.

From then on Victoria became the eyes and hands of her husband, chronicling his career, helping him to set down and correct his scores, keeping him informed of current events by daily newspaper readings, and accompanying him over the years on his travels to premieres and festivals of his music. She took an active part in some of Rodrigo's compositions, providing the story for his ballet *Pavane real* (1955), appearing with him in recordings of piano music, adapting texts for songs, and featuring in many television programmes.

From her early years she spoke several languages fluently. Her strong and courageous personality combined an innate modesty with a sharp sense of humour. Her book, *Hand in Hand with Joaquín Rodrigo*, was published in 1986.

She is survived by her husband and their daughter.



Victoria and her husband, the blind composer Joaquín Rodrigo, in 1933

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## THE TIMES

## BIRTH, MARRIAGE &amp; DEATH NOTICES

For the placement of the above notices our offices will be open during the following times:

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## "NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE"

CENTENARY OF A FAMOUS HYMN

From A Correspondent

Few English hymns are more widely known or better loved than the hymn that begins with the prayer, repeated as a refrain at the close of each stanza, "Nearer, my God, to thee." By a strange coincidence the centenary of the death and burial of its author, Mrs. Sarah Adams, on August 21, 1848, occurs within a few months of the centenary of the death of Henry Francis Lyte, the author of the yet more beloved and famous "Abide with Me" to be found almost everywhere.

The faces of Sarah Adams's life can soon be told. Born in 1805 at Harlow, Essex, her maiden name was Flower. Her father, Benjamin Flower, was a journalist and editor of the *Cambridge Intelligencer*. In 1834 she married William Adams, a civil engineer; and in London, where they lived, she became with him a member of the congregation of the Rev. W. J. Fox, a Unitarian minister. A few years later she contributed 13 hymns to a collection of "Hymns and Anthems," which he published in 1841 for use in his chapel, and among these was "Nearer, my God, to thee." Not a prolific writer like Lyte, Mrs. Adams did not produce much besides her hymns: "Vivia

## ON THIS DAY

August 21, 1948

Sarah Adams's Nearer, my God, to Thee, played by the ship's orchestra of the *Titanic* as the liner went down, was for long a much-loved hymn, but today is not to be found in all hymnals, whereas the Rev H. F. Lyte's *Abide with Me* is to be found almost everywhere.

Perpetua, a dramatic poem whose heroine suffers martyrdom in the conflict of Christianity with paganism: "The Flock at the Fountain," a book of hymns containing a chateausm for children; and some contributions to Novello's "Songs of the Months." Some of her hymns are still included in Unitarian collections in Britain and America. The bright particular star among them is "Nearer, my God, to thee," the only one now generally known and sung, which holds a secure place in Christian hearts everywhere and has been translated into many languages. In its original text, the hymn contains five stanzas. The last of these, beginning, "O'er the

joyful wing cleaving the sky," is usually omitted from modern hymn-books. Several additional stanzas have been composed and published for doctrinal reasons, not to mention small verbal alterations, some good and some bad. Bishop Walsham How, himself the author of splendid hymns, very unsuccessfully para-phrased it to express "more definitely Christian faith." These additional stanzas lack the spontaneous devotion of the original hymn and are obviously written to order. A work of high poetic art has surely an artistic copyright not to be mutilated, paraphrased, or elongated by other hands.

Many famous hymns, like "Nearer, my God, to thee," are associated with unflattering memories, personal or historical. In the tragic story of the loss of the *Titanic* on its maiden voyage, subsequently told by survivors, nothing was more moving than the fact, to which many bore witness, that as the great vessel was slowly sinking the ship's orchestra played the familiar tune of this hymn, and not a few passengers joined in singing it. As an authentic cry to God inspired by sense of personal need it is not difficult to understand how naturally it must have expressed the feelings of men and women suddenly faced with death in the Atlantic waters.









## Protests over new hotel bus service

By Harvey Elliott

ELEVEN hotels near Heathrow airport have rejected pleas to stop charging guests for coach journeys to and from all four flight terminals. The hotels scrapped their individual courtesy bus services nearly two months ago amid protests from business travellers, travel agents and even the airport operator BAA. They were replaced by the Hotel Hoppla Service, which now charges a flat rate for airport coach journeys and links several hotels in our circular service.

The Heathrow Hoteliers Association this week turned a deaf ear to the complaints and insisted that the charges — £2 for a single journey and £3.50 for a return — would remain in force. Heinz Volland, the chairman of HHA, says: "We do not make any profit from the charges. Instead of each hotel having its own small coach, all clogging up the roads and operating at the same time, there is now just one service

provided by Speedlink with timetables structured to ensure that no one has to wait for more than 15 minutes." But the Guild of Business Travel Agents is still fighting the decision which it says is "another exploitation of the frequent business traveller". "The amount may be small in itself but the point is that it's a cost where there was none before," says Tony Hughes, the chairman of the GBTA. BAA says it has "expressed

concern" at the charges and asked the association to reconsider.

Paula Batten, the general manager of hotels for the Carlson Wagonlit Travel chain of agencies, said that the last thing a business traveller needed was to search for loose change on arrival at Heathrow. "Travellers are being caught out, as some queues for the bus without having pre-purchased their tickets and others save insufficient change for their return journey and departure tax."



## Waving the flag and proud of it

Do we want more tourists to come to Britain? In the past few stifling weeks when backpackers have made Tube travel in London a hazard, when elderly coaches from Eastern Europe have spewed out black exhaust and when hordes of Japanese and Americans have swamped heritage sites throughout the country, it would be easy to say "No".

But, of course, we do need these guests to balance the economic losses caused by the millions of Britons now on holiday abroad. Given that we need to attract more visitors it was necessary that some professional research be carried out to discover what these foreigners expect to find and what attracts them.

The British Tourist Authority (BTA) set out to do just that 18 months ago. Its research has resulted in a small publication called *Living Britain* — a guide to understanding the characteristics of the geographic brands of Britain, London, Scotland, England and Wales.

It contained some pretty odd conclusions — that travel is driven by "hedonism, adventure and Zen" — as well as some of numbing, self-evident clichés. The report was sent to designers with instructions to use it as a blueprint to create a logo which could be used on BTA notepaper and advertising throughout the world.

At the moment a very simple bold title, "Britain", surmounted by a wavy Union Flag is used. This is not an image most Britons ever see, appearing only in travel offices abroad. But when a middle-ranking BTA official made an unguarded remark which was interpreted — wrongly — as

meaning that the flag was to be dropped altogether by the BTA, the reaction was immediate and extreme.

David Quarumby, the chairman of the BTA, was forced to give a formal written assurance that the flag would still be in the logo but of a different design and more stylised to reflect the modern image of Britain.

His protestations were either ignored by those who had set the hare running, or simply not believed. Callers jammed the switchboard of the BTA headquarters to protest. "I've never taken so many calls from people who began by saying: 'I fought in the war you know...'" said one bemused employee. It was akin to the reaction of shareholders to the new designs on the BA's aircraft.

Of course we need to attract the tourists, but please spare us the clichés

We will have to wait until September 22 to see what the new design really does contain. But I am assured by everyone who has seen it that the flag is there. The booklet is odd, however. "Geographical brands are only part of the story," it muses. "Activities and events are also essential parts of any visit, satisfying one or other or a multiple of hedonism, adventure and Zen." Britain is "an island of contrasts", Scotland "a land of fire and stone", Wales "a land of nature and legend" and England "tea in a quaint country village, cricket on a village green...". etc. Ghastly. "We must remember that Britain is not just Beefeaters and the Tower of London and it is important that we reflect all that is contemporary, stylish and inventive too," Mr Quarumby says. Who can argue with that?



Kenyan riot police apprehend a looter in Nairobi, which has been affected by violent protests

Foreign Office issues warning to British travellers about 'indiscriminate' violence in Mombasa

## Tourists cancel trips in fear of Kenya unrest

By Tony Dawe

WORRIED British tourists are cancelling holidays to Kenya and switching to other countries after tough warnings from the Foreign Office this week about unrest in the African state.

Thomson, the leading tour operator, said yesterday that 14 holidaymakers who had planned to fly from Manchester to Mombasa on Tuesday night had cancelled their trips while Kuumi said it is offering clients flying to Kenya in the next week the opportunity to cancel at no cost.

Somak Holidays said that it had delayed a return flight to Manchester from Mombasa yesterday so that all passengers could travel to the airport in daylight.

The Foreign Office has warned against travelling after dark even though the violence, which has claimed at least 33 lives in the Mombasa area in the past week, has not yet been directed at tourists. Officials say that violence "could become indiscriminate at very short notice" and advise travellers to be "particularly vigilant and keep in close touch with their tour operators, hotels and local authorities".

A series of attacks last month and newspaper and television pictures of a bishop



injured when government troops stormed a church where people had taken refuge failed to deter holidaymakers. However, the violence in the Mombasa area, where thousands head for beach holidays, has caused greater concern.

This week's warning advises that muggings and armed attacks can occur anywhere and at any time, particularly in Nairobi and Mombasa, and adds that armed car hijackings are prevalent in the two cities.

The Foreign Office is advising tourists to avoid some districts altogether, including the northeastern province, the

Tana River district and the Marsabit national reserve and Isiolo region in the north of the country. Those heading for the Samburu and Shaba game reserves or using the road between the coastal resorts of Malindi and Lamu, in the north, are advised to travel with armed guards.

The most popular regions for safaris, including the Masai Mara, Amboseli and Tsavo national parks in the south of the country, have not been affected by the violence, which appears to have been triggered by the impending general election.

A Thomson spokeswoman said yesterday: "We are notifying holidaymakers who are about to travel of the latest situation, giving them a copy of the Foreign Office advice and allowing them to make an informed decision about whether to continue with their plans. Those who cancel are being offered their money back, but the majority are going ahead with their holidays."

At Kuumi, a spokeswoman said: "We are offering clients travelling this week and next the opportunity to cancel at no cost or change to a different holiday if they wish. Those already in Mombasa have been updated with the latest

information but no one has asked to move and the situation seems to be getting quieter."

Ash Sofat, the managing director of Somak Holidays, which flies 32,000 British tourists to Kenya every year, said: "We are exercising caution and following Foreign Office advice by arranging transfers to and from the airport in daylight and warning travellers about wandering around after dark or wearing excessive jewellery."

"As a precautionary measure, we have stopped operating coach tours in the Mombasa area but the safaris we organise have not been affected. We have had a few people travelling in the next week or so wanting to cancel or switch destinations and have been able to offer beach holidays in Zanzibar and the Seychelles and safaris in Tanzania as alternatives."

British Airways Holidays said it was in constant contact with the Foreign Office but is

continuing to operate tours and excursions as usual because they do not go near the affected areas.

The violence is certain to damage Kenya's tourist industry, which has been attracting an increasing number of visitors. To avoid overcrowding in the most popular beach and safari areas, tourism officials have been planning to make remote game reserves and beaches more accessible but some are in areas that tourists are now advised to avoid.

## Policing Internet information

The quality and accuracy of financial disclosures are open to question, say James Gulliford and Roger Hussey

THE emergence of the World Wide Web as a medium for business communication raises issues concerning the regulation of corporate financial reporting. Companies such as Asda, BP and BT are making full disclosures on the Web, mirroring their published annual report and accounts.

Some companies also disclose quarterly (unaudited statements) and others, such as BOC, have published unaudited preliminary statements. Others are providing financial highlights, summary statements and other excerpts and reports. The quality and accuracy of disclosures are open to question.

Web sites are frequently laid out in a style similar to the published financial statements, with some companies simply scanning in from the hard copy. Other companies may copy to rekey the data to create the Internet version, which has the potential for introducing errors. In recognition of this risk, BP, among others, has appended a note alerting readers that there might be errors and omissions. The possibility of innocent error is, however, only a minor problem. Because of the lack of regulation, companies can dis-

seminate information that falls short of giving a "true and fair view". Particular paragraphs from the full report and accounts can be omitted, giving the reader an unbalanced perception of the company's state of affairs. Equally dangerous, additional paragraphs, not in the published statements and, hence, not audited, can be included. To our knowledge, few auditors are consulted on the financial disclosures a company makes on the Web.

Another problem with potentially dramatic implications is the ability to "edit" corporate Web sites. In cloning a corporate Web site, a rogue could amend the accounts with great ease. A similar hazard is the risk of hackers gaining access to a company's own server and modifying the contents of the Web site.

Although it is impossible to regulate all corporate financial disclosures on the Web, some measures should be taken to protect the interests of investors and other users and the reputation and well-being of the company itself. This is not likely to be easy and Internet regulation, in general, has proved to be a contentious and thorny issue. Governments have sought to control what information is put on and



Roger Hussey calls for measures to protect investors

downloaded from the Internet, within their jurisdiction. However, the Internet spans global boundaries and no one organisation has responsibility.

As corporate Internet usage grows, regulators and other parties must work together to form a strategy to tackle the financial reporting challenges.

Organisations such as the Accounting Standards Board, the Department of Trade and Industry and the London Stock Exchange need to consider how

to ensure investor protection. It may be that, as we strive towards international harmonisation, there is a significant role for the International Accounting Standards Committee. Our suggestions, however, are in the UK context.

One solution could be a compulsory filing system for financial statements on a government-controlled Web server. This could be brought into line with the procedures, regulations and penalties now used

by Companies House. This one controlled server could be the single source of reliable UK company financial reporting information, and, as such, the material contained on it would be wholly audited and intact.

Another answer would be for a Web audit to be conducted, either by a watchdog agency or, more probably, by the company's appointed auditor on a spot check basis. This approach would provide some comfort to companies and investors that an effort was being made to ensure the security and integrity of the data being broadcast.

The third possibility is that no action will be attempted until the position becomes so untenable that intervention must be implemented. This would involve attempting to change practices that have become firmly established and reacting to scandals that need never have occurred.

The Web offers considerable opportunities in the rapid, convenient and widespread dissemination of financial information by companies. A number of organisations are aware of the issues and are monitoring developments. But now is the time for someone to grasp the initiative to exploit the potential of the Internet for corporate communications and to ensure the integrity and security of the data broadcast.

James Gulliford is a research associate and Roger Hussey Professor of Financial Communications at Bristol Business School

## Man who walked and talked the job

THERE is less room in the business arena these days for the evangelist. And by evangelist I mean someone who believes, with a passion and understanding, in trying to bring about change that will improve the way business is done. John Garnett, who died last week, was such a person. He was Director of the Industrial Society from 1962 until 1986 and was responsible for creating an environment in which vigorous ideas to bring about change that could benefit everyone in the industrial and business world could flourish.

In many ways his work predated and made possible the philosophy behind the sort of cultural change programmes that are now increasingly commonplace. I met Garnett when I edited *Accountancy Age*, *Accountancy* and the society sponsored awards for simplified financial reporting, an initiative that grew out of the need for simpler and comprehensible reporting of financial results to employees. The awards programme ran for some 14 years. For Garnett, it was a small part of his work. But the basics were there. What he believed in was the importance of leadership and communication within business units. Only when that was working could the whole business realise its full potential and that of all the individuals that made it up.

In his early days at ICI he had been sent to the first of the Duke of Edinburgh's study conferences, the great postwar gatherings that brought together the brightest and best young managers across industry and commerce to discuss common problems and see how other businesses worked. It was the start of a belief that to do your own job well you needed to understand its context and how the whole of the business worked. He used to talk of his early days at ICI in Glasgow. "I can see now the opening of Imperial Chemical House, Sydney, Australia," he used to recall. "In our own office we had a picture of this great big building five blocks from the Sydney Opera House and we really did know, in Bothwell Street, Glasgow, what ICI was doing in Australia, but what we could never discover was what ICI was doing in Bothwell Street, Glasgow."

He was a great advocate of "walking the job" to find out. And one of the most useful of the initiatives that the Industrial Society worked tirelessly was to advocate and introduce was the idea of team briefing. But simply that it would bring down the postage bill.

That is also why current initiatives, such as the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance, are so dispiriting. The impression given is not one of creating change that will enhance business but instead of an exercise aimed at getting away with the minimum possible to assuage the critics.

Garnett recognised one simple concept early in his career. He defined it as the need that people have "to give". And that was the basis for his work. "How to make people give" should be the basis for any business strategy. But people need time to achieve that. And managers no longer believe in giving anyone such time.



ROBERT BRUCE

It was a question of taking time to talk of how business worked, to enable ideas to be understood, and for people's own potential to be allowed to grow. These days it is harder to take time. There is no less time at hand. It is simply that such concepts are not given the priority and time that they deserve. Businesses are perceived to be tightly competitive. The advantages are at the extreme margins. Refining technical skills gives one the chance to push a margin slightly wider and so open up a tiny competitive advantage. It is to this that business devotes its time.

It is the same with the motivation behind efforts to expand communication. In the days of the simplified reporting awards, the idea of explaining complex accounting and financial reporting issues to the workforce was seen as something that would create wide and lasting benefits. The motivation behind today's desire to bring summarised financial reporting to the masses is simply that it would bring down the postage bill.

That is also why current initiatives, such as the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance, are so dispiriting. The impression given is not one of creating change that will enhance business but instead of an exercise aimed at getting away with the minimum possible to assuage the critics. Garnett recognised one simple concept early in his career. He defined it as the need that people have "to give". And that was the basis for his work. "How to make people give" should be the basis for any business strategy. But people need time to achieve that. And managers no longer believe in giving anyone such time.

## ICA gets het up over etiquette

NEVER let it be said that the English ICA lacks a strong hold on its priorities. Last week, as the rest of the accountancy world talked of Hampel, regulation and derivatives and mergers, I sent more than 100 staff a stiff note on etiquette. A message from the secretary of Andrew Colquhoun, the chief executive, said: "If members of the staff are unsure how to address and start and finish letters to people

with titles other than Mr, Mrs or Ms, please consult the Executive Office or consult *Debrett's Correct Form*." This rings alarm bells. The vice-president is, of course, Sheila Masters — a Dame. The staff read on: "There have been two recent occasions when letters to Dame Sheila Masters have started 'Dear Dame Masters' instead of 'Dear Dame Sheila', it said. "One we managed to intercept, but the other

reached Dame Sheila, which provoked a sharp rebuke to Andrew Colquhoun." The poor fellow probably deserves a knighthood.

## Football comp

DELOITTE & Touche managed a marketing coup with its sixth annual review of football finance. Press coverage of what used to be an arcane accounting topic has been extraordinary

and the partner involved, Gerry Boon, is over the moon in spite of being an Oldham Athletic supporter. And the football audit market is also hotting up. Deloitte claims some big names in its locker room. It audits Spurs, AC Milan, Barcelona and, as you might expect, Oldham Athletic, among others. But the survey fails to reveal the accounting firm with the blue-chip clients — step forward

Grant Thornton, auditor to Manchester United and Glasgow Rangers.

TOMORROW The Times will publish *The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants' June 1997 examination results. These will be followed on Saturday by The Institute of Chartered Accountants' July 1997 Final results. Copies of both days' Times will be available at London mainline stations from 10pm the evening before publication.*

ROBERT BRUCE



